CRACK FOOTBALLERS OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY.

JACK REGAN.

FOTHERGILL GETS V.F.A. AWARD

HUGH TORNEY.

THIS YEARS MEDAL WINNERS.

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COMPILED BY Golden Boy

HOW ESSENDON WON SEMI-FINAL

Essendon's victory over Richmond in the first League semi-final was a triumph for pace over packs. Essendon led to the ball, got it, and cleverly used it. The Tigers lumbered after them throughout four quarters.

The only danger to Essendon was of being trapped in the huggings of the packs. Fortunately for them they had the hardboiled football sense to skirmish rather than slog.

THE game developed much as we anticipated in these columns last dnesday. Essendon beat the Tigers pace, using handball and low, well-ected passing to advantage.

n the second and third quarters hmond for a space succeeded in transforming the play into rolling packs. According to pack law they won. In fact, at three-quarter time I was in two minds whether Richmond, using the wind in the last term although 26 points down, could not wear Essendon down and win.

But the last term was a Richmond debacle. Essendon raced away and as the quarter developed goal after goal was piled on with Richmond impotent.

In the first term Essendon got the break and rattled on seven goals straight, finishing the term with 8.1 to 2.4. Richmond, taking a turn at the popular scoring end, came back so hard that we saw a transformed Essendon struggling out 15 points in the lead at the interval.

Richmond clutched hard and dragged the Essendonians back on their heels. There was far too much mauling passed by the umpire, but it suited Richmond. As the Richmond score mounted the crowd saw a runaway re-shaping itself into something nearer and closer, and consequently more thrilling. For their part they were satisfied.

In the first half two things stood out in individual effort, or lack of it. The success of Griggs at centre half-forward for Essendon dominated the game.

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Yet Richmond had left the responsibility of trumping the ace to a first-year player in Maguire, who met most emergencies flatfooted, and whose best efforts to grab Griggs ended mostly with two big fistfuls of air.

The minute Griggs started to dominate the game Maguire, who later played sterling football in the ruck, should have been moved. I would have shifted Steele, from the Richmond pocket, to check Griggs. Steele is a brainy player at negativing a forward. Further, he is more a physical match for Griggs, whose clever turning left Maguire yards to the bad.

After half-time Richmond swung Bawden on to Griggs, and with Dyer hovering near the ace was trumped, both by Bawden's brilliant marking and Dyer's protective shepherding.

But Bawden was required in the ruck, and when ruck switches were necessary Griggs avoided the blanketing, and raced into the Essedon van again.

The scores at three-quarter time gave Essendon a 26 points lead—13.7 to 8.11. But the final scores were 21.9 to 11.15, which illustrates the final triumph of the 'Dons.

Now the 'Dons await the loser of next Saturday's semi-final between Carlton and Melbourne.

* * * *

THE best player in the first League semi-final was undoubtedly Griggs, the Essendon centre half-forward. In the first half he played brilliantly, dominating the Richmond defence with his anticipation and clever turning and baulking. His kicking was superb, most of his five goals coming from 50 yards out. Richmond could find no permanent counter for Griggs, though for a space Bawden, supported by Dyer, outmarked him and drove back several Essendon attacks.

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NEXT to Griggs in the Essendon eighteen I would place Bryce, who, while in the attack for three quarters, was one of the few forwards who knew the true meaning of co-operation in attack. He got his goals when they were most needed. He squirmed through and round wrestling packs, and got a true boot to the ball, either to take the shot himself or to pass to a team mate.

Then in the important last quarter Bryce was switched to the wing to quleten Edwards, who had given Caesar a trouncing. Immediately doubtful Essendon fortunes were revived. Bryce became a dominating factor in Essendon's magnificent finish. He was a great player on the day.

* * * *

Carlton's defence did a magnificent job against Melbourne. They will require nothing less on Saturday. There must be a stop to the tendeney to run with the ball. Well-directed kicking will win, not lost kicks through trying to run with the ball.

The Carlton attack is problematic. Wrout gave them his best against Melbourne. He can't do better, but I know he can drop away. He had an inexperienced player in Gardner

I don't anticipate an easy Carlton victory. I believe the Demons will test them to the end.

Carlton's chief danger will be the amount of latitude they allow La Fontaine. If he is given as much freedom in the semi-final as they gave him in the last quarter at Carlton, when he moved almost without opposition between the half-back lines the Blues will be up against it.

Skinner seemed to forget that La Fontaine was his responsibility. If that latitude be given La Fontaine, anything is likely to happen to Carlton.

Wednesday, September 10, 194

TWO EXPERTS REVIEW FINAL FORM

One Picks Melb. Other, Carlton

TWO members of The Globe football staff closely watched while Carlton beat Melbourne at Carlton a fortnight ago. Their observations are very much the same, but regarding the result of Saturday's semi-final, they come to different conclusions. Donald Don picks Carlton. Bruce Andrew, now of the R.A.A.F., thinks Melbourne have the talent to make the adjustments necessary to win.

"Melbourne can make the adjustments."—Bruce Andrew.

THE game should be as fine an exhibition of tactics as we have seen for some time. Melbourne for years have been taking the field and calling the tune. Now they have to go out and counter Carlton. They will have to change their usual tactics to win.

The Blues have the key to the traditional Melbourne game. For years the Demons have been kicking the ball high and relying on their talent in the air to win. They have got away with it. No more, though, for Carlton has the edge on them now.

The Blues play the non-stop type of football, bustling and wrong-footing Melbourne cleverly. Carlton has the machine-gun type of football that Melbourne does not like.

MUST ALTER TACTICS

Three times in three meetings Carlton has won each time in the same way. Now Melbourne must face the fact that they have to alter their tactics to win.

To do so the Demons must be ready and willing to make switches. Till now the Melbourne centre line has fed a brilliant attack. Carlton has discovered the way to blanket the attack.

It was not that the attack played badly at Carlton, but rather that they played as well as they were allowed. Neither Smith nor Baggott can play better football than was shown at Carlton, but each can be more effective. Carlton did not beat either man, but did blanket their effectiveness, forcing them out from goal and staunching the flow of any attempt to keep the ball playing on.

If this happens again Melbourne will be beaten. They must therefore be willing to make drastic changes, sending even Smith or Baggott away from accustomed positions. The Melbourne ruck work fell down at Carlton. It was lifeless. The second ruck in particular failed to play on and drive the ball along. With Beames back in the side as rover something better can be expected.

But I would not hesitate to throw in Wartman or Hingston for a term in the second ruck if it cannot develop the drive it so badly lacks. At Collingwood we won many games by sending Harold Rumney on to the ball to brighten up the ruck work. Yet Rumney was primarily a defender against him and got the run to the ball. On the other hand, Schmidt can play a lot better.

Carlton's form recommends them. They have the ability to win. Yet I feel that Melbourne have the talent available to alter their tactics and get away with it. I think Melbourne will win.

"I fancy the Blues."—Donald Don.

I FANCY Carlton will win. I have been greatly impressed by the method of Carlton's defence in recent games. It has been a long time since I have seen defenders cling to their opponents in such a way as they have, particularly against Melbourne. The correct form of defence is shoulder to shoulder and this was never demonstrated better.

I thought Baggott and Smith, the Melbourne crack attackers, played as well as I have seen them, but their effectiveness was nullified by the tenacity of the defence and the fact that both were forced to work far from their usual range to get their kicks.

Although Melbourne's 3-17 in the first half looked bad, it was not so much attributable to inaccuracy as to the forcing, bustling tactics of the home defence. Melbourne, according to Carlton's set plan, were allowed no sitters, and rightly so.

Although the personnel of the Carlton rucks does not impress as being outstanding, there is that quality of speed and spring and anticipation between the rucks and the rovers that makes them hard to counter or hard to corner. They are always moving and Melbourne's only hope is to go with them. I doubt whether the Demons have the men of sufficient pace to do this.

MUST CHECK FLOW

Unless the Melbourne followers can corner and upset the flow of the faster Carlton ruck men, the Melbourne rovers whom I expect to be Beames and Heal, will go hungry.

In opposition to Mooring and Cooper, the Carlton rovers, they will be asked to counter two of the cleverest exponents of different types of scouting. Mooring is clever and exceptionally dashing and fast. Cooper is as elusive as a shadow.

Heal and Beames appeal to me as being much the same type. There is nothing obscure about either. I think, therefore, that it is Melbourne that will have to do the worrying about the roving.

Furthermore, I don't expect that Melbourne's forwards will be so thoroughly overshadowed as they were. At least I think they will put up a tremendous fight before being subdued. Smith is a great general forward. He and Baggott will do a lot of hard thinking before the day.

The home ground does seem to stimulate certain players. Mueller is one in particular. He should play better before his own crowd.

The Carlton attack is more amazing than it is given credit for. Without a regular full forward they have piled up a great record of points. That shows talent to me.

It will be close, but my vote goes to Carlton, the side in form. It will be hard. It will be strenuous either way.

Coburg Score In V.F.A. Semi-Final

COBURG proved too strong for Preston in the first V.F.A. semi-final. They won comfortably at the end, although Preston at times were within striking distance. Coburg's trump cards were Norm. Glenister, Bob Pratt and Lance Collins, who dominated play from centre to goal. Preston had no counter.

ON their showing, Coburg have enhanced their chances for the premiership. They have run into top form at the right end of the season. After the first quarter Coburg were always in front with steadier play and all-round teamwork.

The match was won in the third quarter when Preston were held to five behinds while Coburg added five goals. Preston's rally, halfway through the last term, with a burst of five goals, was too late, for Coburg had too much in hand.

Pratt has seldom worked harder or played a more brainy game. When he was pinned down in the second quarter he moved right out from goal, drawing the opposition backs. This allowed Collins and Hore to run in and score. The Preston defence erred badly then, as the only one keeping position was Maslen. He saved repeatedly and his side would have been many more goals down but for him.

UNBEATABLE AT CENTRE

The former Geelong player, Glenister, was unbeatable at centre for Coburg. He was the pivot of all their play and constantly sent the ball forward to Collins, who was just as accurate in his passing to Pratt.

Pratt (8) and Collins finished with 12 goals between them. It was Coburg's powerful goal-to-goal line that proved Preston's undoing, for at the defensive end of it Sitch centre half-back, and Promnitz, full-back broke up the Preston offensives.

Preston were disappointing. They did not recover from their slump that set in seven rounds back. In that time only two games were won — against the weak opposition of Sandringham and Yarraville. They placed too much responsibility on Lynch's shoulders at full forward and did not build sufficient support round him.

In filling fourth position, Preston do so for the second year in succession. Scores:—

	COBURG			PRESTON		
1st Quar.	4	5	29	3	5	23
2nd Quar.	5	11	59	6	10	46
3rd Quar.	13	18	96	6	15	51
FINAL	16	21	117	11	21	87

SANDOVER MEDAL.

Triumph for H. Bunton.

(By "FOLLOWER.")

Three Brownlow Medals and three Sandover Medals in the possession of H. Bunton are testimony to his outstanding ability as a footballer. Umpires' votes for the 1941 Sandover Medal were counted on Tuesday and Bunton was adjudged the fairest and best player in the league. His record is enviable and one which is not likely to be equalled.

AT the age of 29 years, Bunton, the Subiaco captain-coach, has achieved more than would have seemed possible when he first came into prominence in Victoria. His career has been outstanding. When he was persuaded to go to Melbourne from Albury there was an unprecedented rush for his services and a sequel was his disqualification by the Victorian league. However, this disqualification was removed and Bunton became an idol of the football public.

As long as football is played and talked about Bunton's name will be mentioned. There have been numerous arguments regarding his ability. He has been claimed the best player the game has ever had and, on the other hand, former champions have refused to rank him among the first six, contending that his kicking is not first-class and that he is more of an individualist than a team man. Whatever the arguments, Bunton can produce three Brownlow medals and three Sandover medals which he has won.

Bunton has kept himself wonderfully fit. He is a fine physical specimen and he has had to be fit to continue playing regularly. In Victoria he was a marked man and opposing teams tried week after week to quieten him, but without success. He was able to roll away from hard-hitting opponents and outdistance them with his long, effortless strides. During his four seasons in this State Bunton has also had to take hard knocks and seldom has he been hurt. Altogether, Bunton has played 187 league games. At present he is contemplating whether or not to continue playing. His aim is to be a league umpire, but it is difficult to tell now whether he will retire while still comparatively young and still an outstanding player, or whether the call of the game will prove irresistible.

matches Higham was South Fremantle's best player, dominating the ruck, yet he secured only a second and two thirds. In the same team E. Graham, the goal-keeper, was credited a solitary point; if he was not the outstanding man in at least one match (against Claremont, in particular), the judgment of many good judges was sadly astray. Surely J. Pola, the West Perth rover, was worth considerably more than two thirds. N. McDiarmid, of West Perth, gave some excellent displays in defence, yet only once did he receive three points for being the best player on the field. J. Clayton, of East Perth, was hardly flattered by the umpires when, between them, they gave him two points, and K. Kelly, of Subiaco, will treasure his solitary point.

PLAYERS' FIGURES.

Following are the details of the voting:—

H. BUNTON (Subiaco)	22
E. HENFRY (Perth)	21
F. WILLIAMS (Subiaco)	20
J. REID (Claremont)	19
M. HILSZ (Perth)	18
E. O'KEEFE (West Perth)	16
R. STARR (East Perth)	12

11.—G. Dearle (S.F.) and J. Reilly (S.F.).

10.—S. Heal (W.P.).

9.—W. O'Neill (C.), C. Lewington (S.F.), M. O'Loughlan (E.P.), W. Casserly (E.P.).

8.—J. Williams (S.D.), Darmody (S.D.), McDiarmid (W.P.), Gabrielson (E.P.).

7.—J. McDonald (E.P.), French (E.P.), Nayler (S.F.), Mosey (S.D.) and Holdsworth (S.D.).

6.—S. Clarke (C.), H. Stephens (S.F.), E. Sweet (E.P.), Meiers (E.P.), Ebbs (E.P.) and J. O'Dea (P.).

5.—Hardiman (S.), Pearce (S.D.), Bridges (W.P.), Hicks (W.P.), G. Moloney (C.) and J. Sweet (E.P.).

4.—Rosewarne (S.D.), Serjeant (C.), Higham (S.F.), Screaish (E.P.) and Drake (E.P.).

3.—Moriarty (P.), M. McIntosh (P.), Hardisty (P.), Foxcroft (P.), F. Clarke (E.P.), Wendt (E.P.), Beccaria (E.P.), G. Doig (E.P.), Barr (S.F.), R. Poole (S.F.), J. Smith (S.F.), Hall (E.P.), H. Smith (E.P.), Edmeades (C.), Guthrie (C.), Perruson (C.), M. Tetley (W.P.), Jennings (S.) and Roe (S.).

2.—Hawtin (S.), O. Kelly (S.), Hay (S.D.), Wicks (S.D.), Amerler (S.D.), Heusler (C.), Compton (C.), Raineldi (W.P.), W. Kingsbury (W.P.), Clamp (W.P.), Fleming (W.P.), Durkin (W.P.), Woodhouse (W.P.), Pola (W.P.), Renfrey (S.F.), N. Lewington (S.F.), Clayton (E.P.), McEncroe (E.P.), Thomas (E.P.), J. Campbell (E.P.), R. Graham (E.P.), Broom (E.P.), Daniell (E.P.), Strang (E.P.), Evans (E.P.), and Strauss (P.).

1.—D. McIntosh (E.P.), M. Haskell (S.F.), E. Graham (S.F.), Crooks (P.), Tucker (P.), Charles Oxnelt (E.P.), Prince (E.P.), McClements (C.), Bridgwood (C.), Byfield (C.), King (C.), Giese (W.P.), Tyson (W.P.), Baker (W.P.), Bonds (W.P.), R. Holmes (S.D.), Anderson (S.D.), C. Burton (S.), Gilbert (S.), Exell (S.), K. Kelly (S.) and Carmody (S.).

Team totals.—West Perth, 65; East Fremantle, 63; South Fremantle, 63; Subiaco, 62; Perth, 61; Claremont, 60; East Perth, 59; Swan Districts, 47.

The winner of the Sandover Medal, Haydn Bunton, looking at some of the trophies he has won during his football career.

While Bunton's success this season was not unexpected, there are many who thought that he had not maintained his usually high standard and that a new name would be added to the honour roll. Actually, he won by the narrowest of margins from the talented E. Henfry, of Perth. Bunton gained 22 points and Henfry 21. Bunton was ranked first in five matches, second in two and third in three, while Henfry gained five firsts, three seconds, Henfry, as centre-half-forward, and then as centre-man, gave Perth distinguished service.

A remarkable feature of the voting was that Subiaco and Perth each had two players who scored heavily. F. Williams, of Subiaco, gained 20 points (six firsts and a second) and M. Hilsz, of Perth, gained 18 (four firsts, two seconds and two thirds). Williams must have been well in the lead when he had a bad lapse and Hilsz missed three games.

When one examines the points gained by the various players, it becomes evident that the system of voting is not satisfactory. For many

Once again East Fremantle's players were left out in the cold. Although V. French and G. Meiers and, in more recent matches, D. Gabrielzon showed good form over a period, W. Casserly was rated highest in the team with three firsts, or nine points. Since the medal was first awarded in 1921, umpires appear to have shunned the goal-sneaks, the men who kick the goals. These players have been match-winners but year after year they have gained few Sandover Medal points. G. Doig this year received three, G. Moloney five, and E. Tyson one. Of the regular goal-keepers, K. Moriarty did best with three points.

GIVE PLAYERS CHANCE TO WARM UP

IN past years, the team out first kicked a ball about before the start of the game. Now that has been stopped. Why, only the authorities can explain.

The players are the better for the warm up, and for the "feel" of the ball. The ball is the better for the kicking it receives. However, recently that sort of thing has been forbidden.

The game starts with a dead new ball, a ball that has not been warmed up or has not been broken in until nearly half the first quarter is over. The players, even if they are tuned up, are not accustomed to the bounce of the ball or the holding properties of the turf. In such circumstances, a break either way in the fortunes of the game can win it or lose it.

Often the first quarter is ragged. Later we talk of this or that team having "settled down."

FOTHERGILL GETS V.F.A. AWARD

DES FOTHERGILL

THE Recorder Cup and V.F.A. Medal for the best and fairest player of the Association for 1941 has been won by Des Fothergill, who last year tied with Herby Matthews for the League Brownlow Medal.

This is the first occasion that a player has won both awards.

In polling 62 votes for the Association award Fothergill obtained almost twice as many votes as Ted Fay (Brunswick), who was next—62 to 33. On the votes of central and two goal umpires he obtained 26 first preference votes.

The voting in "Recorder" Cup was:—D. Fothergill (W'town), 62; E. Fay (Bruns.), 33; L. Collins (Cob.), 32; J. Hallahan (Brighton), 30; L. Nash (Camb.), 29; F. Dowling (Preston), 28; R. Atkinson (Coburg), 27; E. Bretherton (N'cote), 25; F. Froude (Brighton), 21; J. Lynch (Preston), 21; G. Dower (Northcote), 20; J. Hayes (Pt. Melb.), 20.

Few players have been more in the spotlight than this 21-year-old vice-captain of Williamstown, a born footballer, than whom there is no fairer in the game.

He and his friend, Ron Todd, caused sensations in separate years by crossing from Collingwood to Williamstown without permits. They haven't been able yet to bring the pennant to their new club, but that isn't their fault.

Fothergill played brilliantly at times, virtually carrying the side, in addition to bracing up the attack with 72 goals.

It seems certain that he will be captain-coach of Williamstown next year.

A brilliant cricketer, too, Fothergill captains Northcote District team, and was a member of Victoria's interstate side last year. Having also played for Victoria in interstate football, he joins the select few that has represented the State in both sports.

Williamstown club has had extraordinary success in the V.F.A. Medal and Recorder Cup awards; this is the ninth occasion that a Williamstown player has won. The cup was first awarded in 1923, the medal in 1933.

BEST "OCCASION" TEAM

Melbourne Prove Themselves In Routing Blues

MELBOURNE won the second League semi-final like a big occasion team. Carlton lost it like a team of jitterbugs. It was a one-sided game from start to finish. The only interest that survived after half-time was the discussion and chin rubbings that followed the question: "What has happened to Carlton?"

Yet throughout, even in their vaguest scramblings, there always was a suggestion of a Carlton recovery. Indeed, they had many chances to redeem themselves, but bad forward work added to blackness of their day.

THE Blues on Saturday, individually and as a team, were outclassed. Nothing can alter that sad fact. I don't think such a thing would happen again. Carlton might be beaten by Melbourne, but I am certain they would not be trounced as they were on Saturday.

One thing stood out. After their previous defeats by the Blues, Melbourne got down to the cold matter-of-fact business of rectifying weaknesses and springing a surprise or two in turn. Carlton left alone what they thought to be well enough. Melbourne, with a day to their liking, countered Carlton's pace with long action direct work—high marking and long kicking.

It was Melbourne's day with a vengeance. They rose to the occasion. Carlton sank beneath the weight of the game's importance. Perhaps there was a trace of complacency in Carlton—a suggestion of mild over-confidence. They began as if possessed of the feeling that they could drag Melbourne back whenever they chose, but once the Demons had their tails up the Blues were nonplussed.

PARAMOUNT IN ALL THINGS

This was not the Carlton of recent weeks. Nor was this the indecisive Melbourne. This Melbourne team of Saturday was paramount in all things, dictatorial, successfully aggressive.

As Melbourne rose, so Carlton fell. Melbourne dictated the game and allowed Carlton to play just as well as they wanted them to.

In cold reflection I see Saturday's game won at the first bounce. It was generally agreed that either team getting a break on the other would win. Melbourne forced that break by good football.

The ball was bounced. A dominant hit-out by Mueller was stayed only by the free kick awarded Roly Fischer. Carlton seemed to be drawn towards the spot where the ball had been hit. They did not recover their positions nor cover opponents quickly. La Fontaine was left unguarded and Fischer passed the ball. Mueller, unattended, had run forward, where he took a mark off La Fontaine's kick and scored within a few seconds of the start.

While Carlton stood flat-footed as if debating what had happened and tried apportioning blame the Melbourne ruck took control.

CALL FOR THOMAS

ESSENDON are negotiating for the return of Ritchie Thomas from Perth in time for Saturday's final. Thomas's place on the Essendon half back line would be hard to fill. He adds strength to even this strong division. Thomas was in Melbourne on military duty at the time he joined Essendon.

had passed Melbourne had scored 3-1 to nil. Carlton men were already wandering, trying hard to sort out their own particular responsibilities, and button down on the Melbourne wave of attacks.

The tide had to turn, and when it did Carlton, still rattled, tried desperately to keep the ball low to upset Melbourne's high marking. In doing so the Blues developed a one-track mind on short-passing—the most ridiculous short-passing. The passing was not only overdone, but was so inaccurate that the tasks of the Melbourne defenders, individually and collectively, were light.

CARLTON'S GRAVEST ERROR

Then the gravest Carlton error of the game was made. Somebody forgot that Mueller was playing. The Blues allowed the big fellow to roam where and when he would. He became a roving menace to Carlton across his own half-forward line. As the defenders repulsed the attacks Mueller coolly marked and drove the ball into the goal square again. The defenders continually bumped their heads against the stone wall that was Mueller.

Admittedly Mueller is one of the most brilliant marks in the game but some of the marks he was allowed to take, because of lack of opposition and competition, could have been gathered by a schoolboy. Instead of having to battle and take the knocks and strong opposition that such a game should have provided for him, Mueller became king of the ground without a rival to check him.

No one loves, or can exploit such a role, as Mueller, and from that second quarter on he became the bridgehead of Melbourne's success and the bridge of Carlton's sighs.

A Melbourne forward had this mark to himself.

have been. In the last quarter they scored 5.7, and another six or seven point-blank shots went out of bounds. Had another four shots been true, Carlton might have made an interesting finish to the game, and, in an extreme view—and by Melbourne undoubtedly a disputed point — they might have got up and won.

LIKELY TO COLLAPSE

Twice during the game I had the feeling that Melbourne were finished, that their effort would collapse under pressure. The first time was at the half time interval. During the interval Rod McGregor and Charlie Hardy said that they had gained similar impressions. But there was no stability in the Carlton attack, and Melbourne were able to coast along comfortably.

Melbourne successfully matched aerial supremacy against pace, and succeeded. Final scores were: Melbourne, 16.13; Carlton, 11.16.

The smooth strain, the even tempo, of Melbourne's football continued. Players settled down and gave their best. Every Melbourne man did his share. Carlton continued to over-reach, to strain, where there had previously been smoothness. Never once did they become a team. They wrestled through packs instead of finding a way into the open.

Even with all this wrong-footed football, had Carlton got goals for 50 per cent. of the point-blank shots they kicked out of bounds, they would still have at least disputed the issue.

In the second half, there was considerable battering at goal by Carlton, but their success was not what it might.

Hitting out accurately the followers placed the ball with their rovers, who made for the open spaces and drew placed men to attack them. They opened out the odd-man chain of passes that soon had Carlton rattled.

Before five minutes of the quarter

CONTROL OF GAME

Can Rival Bodies Come Together?

THE need for mutual support after the war is likely to bring rival football bodies in the Victorian League and Association closer together in the near future.

Feelers are reaching out towards a better understanding, though neither body officially admits any knowledge of talks.

SOME weeks back I wrote around this same theme, and interest is revived by the publication of a suggestion that unofficial talks are taking place, or will take place.

Officially the League knows nothing of such talks, but I know several delegates who are exploring every discreet angle to bring about a union of the two bodies.

We have always been strong advocates of one State control, and believe that it is the only way to prevent football being ultimately put into jeopardy through maladiministration and cutthroat jealousy.

Union and State-wide control is vital to the progress of the game. There are, however, several pitfalls. There are still some few delegates at the League table who can see no good in anything but the complete eclipse of the Association. Fortunately, they are fast being outnumbered.

Various suggested schemes are being talked over, and prominent in most discussions is the part the amateurs can play in acting as an intermediary between the League and Association.

AMATEURS' ATTITUDE

Mr J. S. McCann, secretary of the Victorian Amateur Association, said that the Amateurs were prepared to do anything within reason to bring the League and the Association together, or to promote State control.

"Our attitude was clearly defined in 1938," he said, "when we brought together representatives of the League, the Association, and the Australian Football Council. Nothing came of the conference, but we made it abundantly clear then that above all things the amateurs stood for the good of the game rather than for party interests.

"We felt that only by establishing one State control could the best interests of the game be served and we were prepared to do our bit by throwing everything into the melting pot.

"I want to make it clear, however, that we are not desirous of getting anything out of such a union or of strengthening our own position. We have managed our own affairs since 1892—five years before the League was established. We have never been subsidiary to any other body.

"At the time we decided to suspend our operations for the duration of the war we had 60 teams playing on some 30 or 40 first-class grounds. We want nothing from either the League or Association. We do not want second use of League grounds, as some have suggested. But we do want a strong progressive Australian code."

(It was suggested that the Amateurs would be given the use of League grounds on the off Saturdays as some reward for joining a State union.)

Preliminary Final

On Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the League preliminary final will be—

CARLTON v. ESSENDON

Winners will meet Melbourne in the Grand Final the following Saturday.

Throw All Into Melting Pot

"To this end we would be prepared to throw everything into the melting pot—prestige, goodwill, rules, everything—provided a stronger State control of Australian football could be obtained," he continued.

Mr McCann said that the Amateurs had their own Australian controlling body and regularly played interstate football. They were self-contained, and could hope to get nothing from the amalgamation of the League and the Association other than a stronger face for our game.

tion working towards State control and obtaining increasing success and, as a final measure, trying, by their united powers, to force the hand of the League.

There is mutual distrust between certain people in both the League and Association, and it is certain that nothing can be done through these people. It might be demanded that in the interests of the greater cause they must be set aside.

After having completely explored the feelings between both bodies I am certain of this—that union can be obtained only through the complete relegation of personal interests.

"The strongest code, I believe," he continued, "can best be obtained through a union in which promotions and relegations take place annually. Yet I believe that such a scheme will always be the stumbling block because of club and party interests. The League will not give way on that. We have proved promotions and relegations to be the only satisfactory way of conducting a football competition embracing many districts. It is ideal, and will always bring the best to the top, keep new blood flowing, and avoid stagnation."

Mr McCann said that the Amateurs knew nothing of any amalgamation move officially.

UNION THE ONLY WAY

It is indeed a great pity that the Australian Council should have its headquarters in South Australia. The A.N.F.C. is of small use to Victoria in her problems, situated as it is. Yet the future of the Council cannot be assured except through the success of the game in Victoria.

After many conversations with South Australian officials, I am convinced that they are quite unacquainted with Victoria's problems. They think they know all about the position here, but a few words soon show that they are entirely in the dark as to the biggest issues.

I believe that the success or failure of either the League or Association, one at the expense of the other, will not be for the good of football. Union is the only way to preserve both, and both must be preserved.

Therefore, it will serve no good purpose for the League to approach this problem as a body distributing largesse. Such an attitude will definitely isolate the League, and force the Amateurs and the Association closer together. In an extreme case, I can see a strong union between Amateurs and Associa-

The Association hand had been strengthened recently, and will be strengthened further, on a population basis when the war ends and old-world people flock to this country. The Association represents the suburbs with growing room.

The League holds certain excellent good-will and the inner circle of grounds. The Association holds within its districts hundreds of well grassed and enclosed junior playing grounds. It holds a population that will continue to grow while League districts transfer to manufacturing areas.

Better organisation could bring about intense local interest in Association football. Supported by local councils it would be possible to organise a "freeze" that could greatly humble the League.

The Public Schools and several other school organisations have transferred to the Association code, and the muddle in the League rules makes it possible for the Association to exploit the success of their code throughout the country.

Takings Already £9683/13/6

THE semi-finals so far have produced remarkable finance for the League. The Essendon-Richmond match was watched by 59,368 people, who paid £4853/6/6. On Saturday the receipts were £4830/7/ and the attendance 59,435, making grand totals of 118,803 and £9683/13/6.

Chitty Brilliant

NO man in the semi-final played better than Bob Chitty, Carlton's full back. Chitty coupled dash with judgment. He flew for marks with a certainty and determination that upset all opposition. He dashed into packs to clear the ball with runs that landed it within easy kicking distance of goal.

In the last quarter he rallied a beaten ruck and almost turned the tide Carlton's way. At no time was he well supported. He battled often against his own men, as when Carlton men caused a bunch to pack up right in the path of a bold dash by Chitty. The pack met him head on and he took a bad knock.

A little more co-operation and shepherding would have given the man with the run to the ball—Chitty—the opportunity to clear.

Alex Higgins at Work

Studies of the A.B.C. football commentator taken during his broadcast of the game between South Fremantle and Claremont last Saturday.

"Away with the ball."

Awaiting a throw-in.

"Well . . . they gave it to him!"

". . . But he made the best of it."

football broadcasts on his own. Since his entry into the national sphere Alex has covered football, boxing, wrestling, swimming and last May broadcast the "Head of the River" rowing race usually done by Stan O'Brien who is now overseas with the A.I.F.

Higgin has also been of great assistance at patriotic and charity carnivals and in his role of commentator has been called upon to give descriptions of footrunning, cycling, log chopping and many other varied events included in these programmes.

It is not yet definite whether his appointment is permanent as no decision had been given at the time of going to press but there are few men in this State with the qualifications and the ability of Higgins to handle the A.B.C.'s sporting sessions.

Alex Higgins's New Role

ALEX Higgins, whose voice is so familiar to football followers in this State, was heard on the sporting session from 6WN on Saturday evening. Since the death of Leo Ryan two months ago the Australian Broadcasting Commission seems to have experienced some difficulty in finding a suitable man to conduct the sporting session as evidenced by the fact that until this week the Saturday evening's broadcasts have been handled by staff men. Higgins first commenced broadcasting from 6AM and for some years conducted a 15-minute session, consisting of a news resume and sporting highlights, from that station. Later he broadcast the wrestling matches from the Unity Theatre in conjunction with Ned Taylor. Alex has great admiration for Ned and is very grateful to him for his encouragement and assistance that helped him to overcome his first microphone shyness. After five years with the Whitford network Higgins was appointed as a football commentator for the National station. For three years he acted as assistant to Dick Buchanan but this season he has been doing the

MEDAL WINNERS 1941

(W.A.) SANDOVER MEDAL - H. BUNTON. (Vic)

BROWNLOW MEDAL - N. WARE. (Vic)

ASSOCIATION MEDAL - DES FOTHERGILL. (W.A)

STREMEL MEDAL (JUNIORS) - N. LUMMIS.

THIRD MAN GETS THE MARK

Chitty (Carlton) gathers in the ball after vain attempts at marking by Baxter (Carlton) and Baggott (Melbourne).

Winning Centres To Turn Game

"BEST" CARLTON TO BEAT "BEST" ESSENDON

A CHOICE must be made between Essendon and Carlton, who will meet in the preliminary final at the Melbourne ground on Saturday. It is not easy to decide between them, for as teams they are something of counterparts. The breaks in the game will decide the issue.

I think the best Carlton will defeat the best Essendon. But after Saturday's play the "best Carlton" is in the lap of the gods. Something better than we saw on Saturday would be necessary to put the Blues into the grand final.

Football Section
Conducted By
H. A. de LACY

FOR some months past I have held the opinion that Carlton and Melbourne will play off in the grand final. On the surface, Saturday's second semi-final, when Carlton played purposeless, ragged football —would seem to rule the Blues out of the reckoning.

There is something more to the game than that.

After seeing the semi-finals I came to two conclusions. The poor football, general team weaknesses and lumbering pace of Richmond made Essendon's win look better than it really was. It was a meritorious win for the reason that Essendon never allowed Richmond the chance to settle down. That was good football. However, I would take a lot of persuading that the Tigers are a good team.

I saw Carlton play at Collingwood and against Melbourne in the last two of the home and home games. The Blues were a different team from that of Saturday.

Here again enters the consideration that Carlton were beaten to the punch and kept on the wrong leg thereafter by the dictates of Melbourne. Carlton played as well as Melbourne allowed them to.

But the point under discussion is whether Essendon can relegate Carlton to such a secondary position as did Melbourne. I have my doubts.

ALMOST SIMILAR

One team is almost a replica of the other. Essendon can claim a good defence and excellent first ruck and an "if" attack.

Carlton's defence, playing at its top, is even better and stronger than Essendon's. Their rucks, until Saturday, had proved adequate, with their first ruck almost the equal to Essendon and their rovers better.

Carlton's attack is decidedly "if," and, on the showing of both teams in their semi-finals, something below Essendon's ability.

Both teams rely on pace and like to play free, full-flowing football in preference to the static mark and long-kick brand.

Conditions will affect both teams alike. Both teams will require a springy turf to be at their best. Neither team likes wind.

on the target, he has his days. Tom will be a big loss to the side.

If Essendon must replace two valuable men from the reserves they will not find it an easy matter to do so.

CARLTON CAN STRENGTHEN

Carlton can strengthen their side. Crisp is available again and his talent in an attack can strengthen the forward division.

Sanger should be available and should resume his place at half-back wing. He is a better half-back than McInnes. The Carlton ruck can be strengthened, too.

Gill could be returned to full back and Chitty's brilliance be utilised around the centre, where something of a permanent drive is missing.

Carlton can be strengthened. Essendon, on paper, may be weakened.

Carlton were beaten at all points against Melbourne, and that is not a good basis for argument. Those who have watched them during the season know that something better is possible. They have the men to match Essendon's stars successfully. Griggs, centre half-forward, might be worried by Baxter. He was almost unopposed against Richmond. Buttsworth could have a big day watching Wrout.

I think the game will be won across the centre and by the rovers.

Here I see the "best" Carlton better equipped than the "best" Essendon. I think the "best" Carlton will win.

Whether Carlton will repeat their lapse of form nobody can say. I can only argue from the angles of the best the teams can give. Certainly the Carlton of last Saturday should be well beaten by Essendon.

However, all things at their top in both camps, I will pick Carlton to win.

That may seem something of a chancy decision, but I'll stick to my first thoughts that Carlton and Melbourne will contest the grand final. At any rate, football form is such this year, owing to camp life and war work, that every forecast is chancy.

CORDNER ON THE SPOT

E. Cordner (Melbourne) gets in front of the pack as they leap for the mark near Melbourne's goal. From left: E. Cordner, McLean (Carlton) and Fischer (Melbourne).

FOOTBALL MEDALLIST - - - - - - Norman Ware

MOST coveted award in Australian football, the Brownlow Medal, presented each year by the Victorian Football League to the player adjudged "best and fairest" during the season, has been gained this year by NORMAN WARE, captain and coach of Footscray.

Ware, one of the biggest men, physically and mentally, playing football in the Victorian League, is a letter-carrier by occupation, a non-smoker, and a total abstainer. He was recruited in 1932 by Footscray from the Gippsland League, and has represented Victoria in interstate matches in almost every year since.

It was his ambition, at one time, to become a champion swimmer, because both his father and his uncle amassed some fame in that direction. Fate, and Footscray, decreed otherwise.

NORTH HOBART'S FOUR IN A ROW

NORTH HOBART created a record by winning the premiership at Hobart for the fourth successive season in defeating Cananore by 24 points on Saturday. North well merited success.

North lost only twice during the season, to Cananore and New Town. North has been captained and coached by Jack Metherell for the four seasons.

Cananore, who had twice won three titles on end, staged a strong fight, and five minutes before the finish were only six points down. North came with a burst and added three goals.

At the last change Cananore were two points up, but North always gave the impression of being the steadier team, with more in reserve for a finish.

Max Abbott, centre half-back, played an outstanding game for North Hobart. His dashes were among the highlights. He was well supported by W. Hooper. At centre Manson had the call over Evans, and North also held mastery on the wings, with Lewis and Gray, Goggins, Challender, Metherell and Carr were also prominent.

Watkins gave another great display in the ruck and back for Cananore. Tudor was solid in the ruck and at times dominated the play. Clothier and Gourlay were strong defenders and Rodwell, centre half-back, had the call over Collis.

North Hobart gained a double success, the second retaining their premiership.

J. Cashman (Cananore) has been reported for striking W. Hooper, and Hooper on a charge of having adopted a threatening attitude towards Cashman.

I don't for a moment expect the Carlton rucks to repeat the mistakes of Saturday.

The next consideration is that the Essendon team that played against Richmond is their strongest personnel. Two changes may have to be made. Tom Reynolds has a bad shoulder and is unlikely to play. Ritchie Thomas, a wing half-back, has returned to West Australia.

Thomas is one of the best types of safe, yet bustling, hard-hitting wing half-backs seen for years. He greatly resembles a great Carlton player of another day in Andy McDonald.

Tom Reynolds has a bigger nuisance value forward to a defence than is generally recognised. His is a low centre of gravity and he is an extremely difficult man to upend. He is big and affords considerable protection forward. Apart from these virtues, he is an excellent mark and even though his kicking is not always

Football's Best in Each State

ONCE again Hadyn Bunton, the Subiaco captain and coach, has been adjudged by umpires' votes as the fairest and best player in the League. This makes his third Sandover Medal success in the four years that he has played in this State. Besides this wonderful performance he has also won the Brownlow Medal, the Victorian equivalent to the Sandover Medal, three times, in 1931, 1933 and 1935. Although he played for seven years with Fitzroy and for the last four seasons with Subiaco Bunton has never played in a semi-final match. In 1937 he was captain of the Victorian team which won the Australian football carnival in Perth. Describing Bunton, Tom Fitzmaurice, one of Victoria's greatest players, stated that in his opinion he was a super footballer. He knew that he was not a good kick and was too much of an individualist but if Bunton had been disciplined to teamwork the game would not have had a better player. Norman Ware, captain and coach of Footscray, won the Brownlow Medal this season. His win made the eleventh time in 19 years since its inception that a ruckman has won the award. Ware is 30 and ranks with Ivor Warne-Smith as the oldest player to win the medal, Warne-Smith was also 30 when he won the medal in 1928. West Perth negotiated with Ware last season to get him to transfer to this State and he was almost at the point of accepting when he was offered the position of coach to Footscray. The South Australian award, the Margarey Medal, was won by Marcus Boyall, of Glenelg. He originally played with Collingwood and, transferring to South Australia, had to stand down for a season because of Collingwood's refusal to grant him a clearance. The other major award of the Australian football code was the Recorder Cup which is given to the fairest and best player of the Victorian Football Association. This was won by Des Fothergill, of Williamstown. He also played for Collingwood before transferring to the Association. In 1940 he tied with Herbie Matthews, of South Melbourne, for the Brownlow Medal. Fothergill is also a brilliant cricketer and was a member of Victoria's interstate side last season.

Wednesday, September 17, 1941

NORWOOD EXPECTED TO WIN S.A. SEMI-FINAL

Better Balanced Than Sturt

By ROBERT ALLAN

NORWOOD are expected to qualify for the South Australian League grand final as a result of their game against Sturt on the Adelaide Oval next Saturday. Losers will meet West Adelaide, first semi-final winners, on the following Saturday.

It is because Norwood appear to be better balanced that they are chosen to defeat Sturt.

OLD rivals, Norwood and Sturt, can be depended upon to stage a match worthy of the occasion. Early this season Sturt went away with a big lead in the race for the premiership. They won their first seven matches, while Norwood won only four.

But then Sturt struck a bad patch while the Redlegs gained in strength. Sturt lost three successive games, and Norwood, winning two in the same period, crept to within two points of the leaders.

With Sturt recovering form, and with both teams winning consistently it was not until five weeks later, in the middle of August, that Norwood drew level with the double blues.

They have met twice, at Norwood on May 10, and at Unley on June 28. Singularly, the visiting team won on each occasion. Quarter by quarter scores were—

Sturt	6.2	7.6	8.10	13.11—89
Norwood	1.2	5.9	9.12	9.19—73
Norwood	3.3	9.8	15.13	20.16—136
Sturt	4.7	9.11	11.12	15.15—105

Had Norwood been a little steadier in front of goal in the first match they would not have lost that game. The lesson learned then was not forgotten. In only three of the 14 games since then have Norwood scored fewer goals than behinds. Indeed, they are proud of their kicking, as they have scored 261 goals and 202 behinds.

NORWOOD ALWAYS STEADY

Sturt's record for accuracy does not compare well with that of Norwood. The double blues have scored more goals than behinds in only four of the last 14 matches, and while they have kicked one more behind than Norwood they have registered 70 fewer goals. Their tally is 191.203, against Norwood's 261.202. These figures are for the period since Norwood threw away the match against Sturt on May 10 by wild kicking.

The first thing one notices about Norwood is their steadiness. There is little of the slapdash business. The ball is passed from man to man as though there were a plan behind it all. And so there is.

which are aimed to find a weakness—and invariably do—in the opposing defence lines. They have the pace to capitalise this method of breaking through with lightning thrusts.

Sturt have been at a slight disadvantage this season, as they have not yet found a man with the goal-scoring powers of Beau Morton. The fact that a ruckman, Biggs, is Sturt's leading goalkicker this season indicates a weakness in the forward line.

EVENLY MATCHED

There should be some great battles across the centre, where Leak will be opposed to Sawley. There is likely to be little between the wingmen. And the rucks seem evenly matched. It is anticipated, however, that the defence lines of Norwood will be too solid for Sturt to unsettle. Taylor is difficult to pass at centre half-back, and, with Lawrence and Seelenmeyer, forms a strong barrier. At the other end of the field, Sturt, with Green as goalkeeper, are well served, but it is doubtful whether the defence can stand up to the sustained battering attacks of Norwood.

With the Sturt thrusts being blunted on the rock-like defence, it seems that the double blues will falter. Not only will they be affected by their inability to pierce the Norwood goal, but they will be worried by the slogging pressure of the redleg attackers.

The match is expected to be one of brilliance versus steadiness. And the steadiness of Norwood should prevail over the brilliant thrusts of Sturt.

There is speed, action. But there is an absence of jerkiness. The plan develops smoothly as the ball is taken down the field. Once it is in the opponents' goalmouth hard slogging pressure is exerted.

The redlegs' tactics are in contrast to the sharp thrusts of Sturt. Excellent positional play enables Sturt to exploit the rapidly moving attacks

Player of the Week.

Only too often do promising young players fail to fulfil expectations. Often they are better footballers at training than in a match and frequently the potential champion is ruined by success. When teams were preparing for the opening of this season one of the outstanding new recruits was B. Naylor, a tall forward found by South Fremantle. On occasions during the season he shaped exceptionally well but just failed to achieve great deeds. Injuries did not help him. But J. Bowe, the South Fremantle coach, did not change his opinion about the youth. He considered that Naylor would develop, though the process might be gradual, and that when he gained confidence in his marking ability he would be a menace to the opposition. He pointed out that Naylor was a willing learner and carried out instructions to the best of his ability.

Last Saturday Naylor appeared in a league semi-final for the first time and he triumphed. He kicked nine of South Fremantle's 15 goals and it is safe to say that his team would have been in trouble if he had not struck form. Naylor marked brilliantly, rising high and gripping the ball firmly. Several of his best marks were taken close to the ground when he led out fast and accepted a low pass. His leading was good to watch. There was nothing wild about it; he played coolly and gave his teammates opportunities to pass the ball with a feeling of confidence. Only 18 years of age, Naylor has a bright football future. He is 6ft. 2in. in height and he has a remarkable spring from the ground; at Fremantle Christian Brothers' College he won high jump championships. Good goalsneaks are few and far between. G. Doig, G. Moloney and E. Tyson are seasoned players, yet they have been outstanding this year. South Fremantle is indeed fortunate to have obtained Naylor's services.

match, West Perth (beaten in the second semi-final) won the 1935 grand final convincingly.

Following are the results of recent engagements:—

Major Round Games.

1922.—First semi-final: West Perth, 12.10, bt. East Fremantle, 4.8, at Subiaco Oval. Premier, East Perth.

1923.—First semi-final: East Fremantle, 6.22, bt. West Perth, 2.9, at Subiaco Oval. Premier, East Fremantle.

1932.—Second semi-final: West Perth 12.9, bt. East Fremantle, 8.15, at Subiaco Oval. Premier, West Perth.

1933.—Second semi-final: East Fremantle, 16.9, beat West Perth, 13.8, at Subiaco Oval. Premier, East Fremantle

THREE TEAMS REMAIN.

League Premiership Position.

(By "FOLLOWER.")

By defeating Claremont, South Fremantle has cleared one hurdle on the league football premiership path, but it still has two big obstacles. West Perth and East Fremantle will meet in the second semi-final on Saturday and the loser will meet South Fremantle in the final. The grand final will take place on October 11.

IT seems strange to be discussing the premiership position and not have to take Claremont into consideration. Claremont has participated in each grand final since it lost narrowly to East Perth in 1936. But, as the Claremont president (Mr. H. Mercer) pointed out after the semi-final on Saturday, a team cannot win every year. "Victory is not everything," he said. "We have had our successes, but we have concentrated on building up a good club and we have enjoyed the season socially."

When one team begins to lose form there is always another ready to take its place. East Fremantle is eager to prove that it really is strong and that it is worthy of first place. Disappointed at losing the grand final last year, South Fremantle has made a bold bid this season. It has had anxious periods and the fact that it was able to rise to the major round and then eliminate Claremont has made its supporters more optimistic. The new force, West Perth, is going along quietly, hoping for the best. East Fremantle certainly looks the strongest combination, but there is no "certainty" in football.

A Good Start.

When the season opened West Perth caused some surprise when it brilliantly outplayed East Fremantle. It was stated at the time that West Perth was more forward in condition than other teams and East Fremantle supporters were confident that the tables would be turned. At Fremantle Oval in June East Fremantle scored 17.23 to West Perth's 8.5. Their third meeting will take place in the second semi-final on Saturday. East Fremantle's losses this year have not been serious and its strongest team seems certain to be available on Saturday. It has balance, height and weight and pace.

On the other hand, West Perth has been dealt some harsh blows. It should give a good account of itself in the semi-final, but its prospects would be far brighter with S. Heal, Bonds and Kingsbury in the side. All three are capable young players and all three were transferred to the Eastern States, as members of the fighting forces. There is a possibility that Heal will shortly have leave and West Perth officials are making inquiries as to whether he can make the trip to Perth. They will do all in their power to regain his services for the final or grand final. It would be a remarkable record for Heal if, after playing in the Victorian grand final on Saturday, he could return to this State and participate in the final or grand final. Heal would add greatly to the centre-line strength.

Off the Mark.

It is argued by West Perth supporters that East Fremantle's team is not fool-proof. "There is no reason why we should not begin smartly on Saturday and set a fast pace," said one enthusiast. "If we can get moving early, we will just about win. East Fremantle has a big team, but I have seen big teams run off their feet. A big man out of form is a drag on a team." West Perth will have to worry about its forward lines. At times Tyson and Baker have collaborated brilliantly and on occasions the half-forward line has been very efficient. Elsewhere the team is reasonably strong, though O'Keefe is sure to have heavy work in the ruck against such as

B. Naylor, the South Fremantle goal-sneak, flies over a pack

Meiers and Ebbs. A key man will be McDiarmid, frequently a match-winner and a courageous player. If McDiarmid can give, he can take punishment.

Well equipped elsewhere, East Fremantle has not had a regular centreman this season. This seems a little strange, for a team winning at the centre has an advantage. Still, East Fremantle has versatile players capable of doing well in that position.

South Fremantle can sit back next Saturday, but it will not need to relax in training. Semi-finals and finals are strenuous and a team must be thoroughly fit if it hopes to win. South Fremantle last Saturday showed that its condition was good and to win the premiership it must make the utmost use of pace and vigour.

East Fremantle in latter years has beaten West Perth frequently. When they last met in a major round

1934.—Second semi-final: East Fremantle, 15.13, beat West Perth, 7.7, at Perth Oval. Grand final: West Perth, 11.7, beat East Fremantle, 5.9, at Perth Oval. Premier, West Perth.

Recent Meetings.

1937.—West Perth, 12.11, beat East Fremantle, 11.14, at Leederville Oval; East Fremantle, 14.12, beat West Perth, 11.9, at Fremantle Oval; East Fremantle, 14.9, beat West Perth, 12.11, at Fremantle Oval.

1938.—East Fremantle, 21.12, beat West Perth, 12.8, at Fremantle Oval; East Fremantle, 14.13, beat West Perth, 14.11, at Leederville Oval; East Fremantle, 12.22, beat West Perth, 10.5, at Leederville Oval.

1939.—East Fremantle, 20.20, beat West Perth, 11.12, at Leederville Oval; East Fremantle, 22.26, beat West Perth, 7.11, at Fremantle Oval; East Fremantle, 11.22, beat West Perth, 6.6, at Fremantle Oval.

1940.—West Perth, 12.11, beat East Fremantle, 11.14, at Fremantle Oval; East Fremantle, 20.11, beat West Perth, 8.13, at W.A.C.A. ground; East Fremantle, 14.10, beat West Perth, 12.11, at Subiaco Oval.

1941.—West Perth, 22.12, beat East Fremantle, 14.11, at Leederville Oval; East Fremantle, 17.23, beat West Perth, 6.5, at Fremantle Oval.

RANKING LIST.

OFFICIAL LOOKS BACK.

Swan Districts' Champions.

Though the youngest club in the league, Swan Districts has had some fine players, men who have distinguished themselves in the best company and whose efforts enabled the club to participate in two semi-finals. It was in 1934 that Swan Districts entered the league and in 1937 and 1938 it was in the final four.

Mr. T. Neilson has long been associated with football in the district and he is a life member of the club. He was asked to review the players who had worn a Swan District's guernsey. "I would not hesitate to name Andy Zilko as the best full-back we have had," Mr. Neilson said. "He was one of the soundest and most reliable players I have ever seen. He did not seek the limelight, but in match after match played keenly for his club. He played in 108 games for the club. B. Chandler had only one season with the club and was not always in goals." Mr. Neilson found the selection of the best half-back more difficult. He finally chose S. Sinclair (believed to be an A.I.F. prisoner abroad) as the best. He mentioned J. Murray, H. Andrews and J. Williams but thought that honours should go to Sinclair, who played 109 games. Sinclair began as a half-back and later did well at the centre and in the ruck. He had plenty of dash and stamina, kicked well and marked surely.

Krepp's Artistry.

"We have not had anyone to approach G. Krepp in artistry," Mr. Neilson asserted. "On a centre wing or at the pivot he excelled and he won a Sandover Medal. It was a real treat to watch his swerving, dodging, back-stepping, swift picking-up on the run and unerring passes. He was a champion. H. Mosey has been on a wing since the club's inception and he must be ranked as the most determined player the club has had. The late R. Grieve was a neat centre-man and later T. Darmody has given great service there."

The half-forward selection had Mr. Neilson worried and he considered that C. Rosewarne, a clever position player and a fine kick, should be placed first. The Swan Districts' club has not been strong at half-forward. E. Holdsworth has played 93 games for the club and has kicked 453 goals—a creditable performance. Mr. Neilson named him as the club's best forward. J. Park was a very steady and valuable man in a pocket. "Like Sinclair, J. Murray could play in almost any position with success," said Mr. Neilson. "He was a strong half-back but I think he did best in the ruck. He was remarkably fast for a big man and he was fearless. In Melbourne, in 1939, J. Dyer was tearing through but Murray gave him his hip and over went the big man. It was a severe blow to the club when Murray had to retire because of an injury. He played 85 games for the club. H. Forbes, who played 41 games before an accident caused his retirement, was a fine follower and J. Penberthy and J. Ditchburn were hard workers." In Mr. Neilson's opinion "Bonny" Sweetapple was the club's best rover and he has played over 120 games for the club.

CLAREMONT FADES OUT

When Claremont won the 1938, 1939 and 1940 premierships its officials had hopes of beating East Perth's record of five victories in succession. They were, however, disappointed. Claremont faded out of the competition last Saturday and for once it looked a tired side. Usually in an important match Claremont finishes powerfully, but on Saturday, though it battled hard, it did not have the strength to fight on during the last ten minutes. In the second quarter there was a suspicion of weakness in Claremont's play and a few individuals who played gallantly were tired at the finish.

Two players shone in the Claremont side. At centre-half-back S. Clarke was at the top of his form, and, if his threat to retire permanently can be treated seriously, he made a great effort at his last appearance. A feature of his play early was the accuracy of his low passes and in the last term he battled strenuously to hold the battered back lines together. But he had too much to do, with the ball being thrust forward time after time from South Fremantle's ruck.

J. Compton played brilliantly. In the first term he beat badly Reilly, the South Fremantle half-back, and throughout the game appeared to be the one player who could initiate the attacks which might bring victory. It was one of the finest displays he has given. His efficiency accentuated the weakness of other Claremont men.

VICTORIAN TAKINGS.

Although this is a war year, the Victorian league's figures for the major round are exceptionally good and it seems that the takings for the round will constitute a record. The attendance figures do not equal those for 1938, but an extra charge of 6d. for admission to the outer reserve has led to greater receipts. Following are the figures:—

	Attendance.	Gross Takings.
1938.		
1st Semi-final	67,566	£4,573
2nd Semi-final	68,332	£4,220
Final	60,971	£3,771
Grand Final	96,834	£6,804
Totals	290,703	£19,478
1939.		
1st Semi-final	51,411	£3,400
2nd Semi-final	54,778	£3,388
Final	66,846	£4,289
Grand Final	78,110	£5,225
Totals	251,145	£16,282
1940.		
1st Semi-final	44,257	£2,702
2nd Semi-final	54,763	£3,347
Final	47,348	£2,811
Grand Final	69,061	£5,604
Totals	215,429	£14,467
1941.		
1st Semi-final	59,368	£4,643
2nd Semi-final	56,435	£4,330
Final	66,848	£5,738
Totals so far	183,651	£15,411

A STEADY CLIMB.

Since 1936, when it finished last, South Fremantle has been climbing steadily on the premiership table and has hopes of winning the premiership this year. It was seventh in 1937, fifth in 1938, fourth in 1939 and second last year. Its only two premiership victories were gained in 1916 and 1917. Following is its record since 1906:—

1906 Third	1924 Fourth
1907 Fourth	1925 Last
1908 Third	1926 Fifth
1909 Fourth	1927 Runner-up
1910 Third	1928 Fourth
1911 Fifth	1929 Runner-up
1912 Third	1930 Runner-up
1913 Fourth	1931 Fourth
1914 Runner-up	1932 Fourth
1915 Third	1933 Fifth
1916 Premier	1934 Fifth
1917 Premier	1935 Sixth
1918 Fourth	1936 Last
1919 Third	1937 Seventh
1920 Last	1938 Fifth
1921 Fourth	1939 Fourth
1922 Fourth	1940 Runner-up
1923 Fourth	

EAST FREMANTLE JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM.

The East Fremantle football team, which won the grand final in the Fremantle District Junior Football Association's competition. Back row:—B. Luff (president), V. Smith, W. Bathurst, R. Russell, W. Allen, A. Dodd, R. Jones, R. Booth, A. Heinrichs, D. Wares and R. Harris. Middle row:—R. Foster, J. Deig, J. Willis, A. Stenhouse (coach), G. Connell and M. Butcher. Seated:—S. Brown, E. McAffery, J. Truscott and T. Maxwell.

JACK REGAN.
VICTORIA'S CHAMPION GOALIE.

Tobruk Diggers Give Trophies

WHAT do the soldiers overseas think of sport in Australia? Do they think that all sport should be banned so that the people at home could concentrate all their thoughts on the war?

Seven former members of the South Plympton (Adelaide) Football Club showed that they desired football to be continued by giving two trophies, one for the most useful player and the other for the most improved player.

The donors of the trophies are soldiers now serving at Tobruk: R. P. McGhee, M.M., H. F. Errington, H. F. Kennedy, A. G. Power, J. E. Keeley, R. G. Reynolds and E. O. Williams.

The trophies were handed over to the winners—W. Hill and D. Eels—on Saturday night. Parents and relatives of the seven Tobruk Diggers were present at the function.

Thrilling Semi-final

ALTHOUGH at one stage in the second quarter they were over six goals behind South Fremantle made a splendid recovery against Claremont, and battled on to eventually win the first semi-final of the West Australian Football League's competition at the Subiaco oval last Saturday. They will now meet the loser of the game between East Fremantle and West Perth in the final on Saturday week.

Claremont had the first use of a strong breeze and quickly established a lead, but failed to make the most of their opportunities, only five goals resulting from the 14 scoring shots in the first quarter. South Fremantle were slow in getting into their stride in the second term, and Claremont added another goal within a few minutes of the bounce. Adopting a long kicking game and making full use of the wind, South Fremantle rallied and scored five goals in about 10 minutes. Naylor at full forward was in brilliant form, and at half-time had scored six of his side's seven goals to give Souths a lead of six points. Claremont's kicking for goal in the third quarter was even more wretched than in the first quarter. In attack for most of the term they managed only three goals 12 behinds from 15 shots. There was no excuse for this bad kicking, as many of the shots were from point blank range. The last quarter was full of incident, and the large crowd were continually on their toes, as the lead alternated between the two teams. Within a few minutes of play South Fremantle scored three goals to even the scores. Claremont then took the initiative, and with over half the quarter gone had established a lead of 11 points. It was a splendid fight back on the part of Claremont. Play became spirited and umpire Owens was forced to hold up the game for a few minutes until tempers cooled down. A melee started, and the boundary umpire walked on to the ground to warn one of the players involved. Finishing in determined style, South Fremantle wore down the opposition, regained the lead and went on to win a hard-fought game by 17 points.

By scoring nine goals Naylor was the best player on the winning side. His high-marking and long accurate kicking were a feature of the match. His exhibition of forward play has rarely, if at all, been surpassed in second round matches. Neil Lewington was also outstanding, and it was due to his superiority on the wing in the second quarter when he opened up the game that South Fremantle were able to lead Claremont at half time. Others to do well in a fairly even team were Graham, Higham and Reilly. Claremont had two great triers in Clarke and Compton. Clarke was a tower of strength at centre half back and was rarely beaten, while Compton played cleverly and at times was brilliant when his side was facing defeat. His kicking for goal was not of the best, however, as from seven scoring shots he scored two goals five behinds. Hesford and Bridgewood were the best of the others, although older players in Reid, O'Neill and Hooper were useful in patches. After the game George Moloney, the Claremont captain, stated that he had played in his last League match. Shortly after his announcement Sam Clarke and Jack Hooper also stated that they intended to retire. The biggest surprise of all was Johnny Leonard's decision to cease his coaching duties. He said that at the beginning of the season he had made an arrangement with the Claremont club to hand over the coaching job to George Moloney next year.

WEST

ADELAIDE CHOSEN FOR FINAL

Sturt Rout Norwood

By ROBERT ALLAN

IF Sturt's defeat of Norwood can be accepted at its face value. Norwood have little hope of winning the final against West Adelaide next Saturday. Sturt qualified for the grand final in a remarkable match. It was generally expected that they would crack under the sustained pressure of Norwood, but, instead, Norwood cracked.

AWAY to a flying start, Norwood played all over Sturt in the early stages of the second semi-final on Saturday. Toward the end of the first quarter, Sturt regained some of the leeway, but at the change were seven points behind.

There was an entirely different story in the second quarter, as Sturt, with quick thrusts, levelled the scores—and then ran Norwood off their feet. Compared with their first quarter effort, the Redlegs were slow. Sturt ran rings round them, scoring 8.5 while Norwood did not add a point. The rout was completed in the third quarter, in which the Double Blues scored 5.1 to Norwood's 1.5. The debacle ended in Norwood being 71 points behind—22.13 to 10.14.

FIRST IN NINE MATCHES

This was Norwood's first defeat in their last nine matches. And among their victims were Sturt and West, a fact which made their weak game against Sturt on Saturday all the more inexplicable.

When they met in July, Norwood defeated West by 21.10 to 14.10. Then they finished ahead of North Adelaide, South Adelaide, Glenelg and North again. It may be that clear-cut wins over the weaker opposition in the last four matches had led one to believe that Norwood were a better team than they really were. Certainly, they won well, but when they met a stronger combination (Sturt) they went to pieces.

And perhaps too great value was placed on their victory over West in July; it is now revealed that just at that time West experienced a bad slump for more than a month.

One result of that slump was their descent from top to fourth place in the premiership list. West made a spectacular recovery after their defeat by Norwood. They won against South, Torrens, Port Adelaide, Sturt and Port again in the first semi-final.

West should be too fast for Norwood. To win this match Norwood would have to reorganise the side and would have to take drastic steps to increase their speed. They played like a premiership team for one quarter. They had pace, cohesion, accuracy—everything that was needed. And one quarter's effort found them out. In the next quarter they could not reproduce their form.

They failed to keep pace with Sturt. How, then, can they keep pace with the faster West team?

West ran right away from Sturt only three weeks ago, 14.15 to 9.9. A week later they were responsible for an even more brilliant performance in putting Port Adelaide out of the finals. Port were in front at the last change; and when the magpies have such a late grip on a game it takes an exceptional team to break that grip. West were capable of doing it.

One man West will miss is Broadstock. Military duty will keep him out of the side. His place may be difficult to fill. No doubt both teams will be affected by other withdrawals due to military or essential services having first call on the services of the players.

LIKE PLENTY OF ROOM

The Adelaide Oval will suit West better than Norwood. The wide open spaces will enable West to utilise their pace to the full, and if Norwood cannot raise a better gallop than last week they will be left behind again.

The teams have met twice this season. On the Adelaide Oval on May 31 West came from behind to win. On July 26, on their own ground, Norwood got away to a flying start and finished seven goals in front. The quarter-by-quarter scores of the matches were:—

West . ..	3-0	7-5	11-9	16-14—110
Norwood .	4-8	8-11	10-14	12-21— 93
Norwood .	6-3	10-4	16-10	21-10—136
West . . .	1-4	7-5	10-6	14-10— 94

In the grand final for the Association premiership, Torrens B team defeated North Adelaide, minor premiers, 17-18 to 11-11.

Two A.I.F. teams provided the curtain-raiser at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, West Australia defeating South Australia 15-7 to 8-7. As many League players were in action the game was of a high standard. Innes kicked four goals for the winners, and Dore and Tomkins each three.

DEMONS ARE MORE CERTAIN

By NORMAN WARE, 1941 Brownlow Medallist

MELBOURNE are more certain than Essendon. There are few frills to the Demons' football, but it is very effective. Essendon have just that liking for the showy stuff that makes them something of an "if" team. Recognising this, I am selecting Melbourne to win the 1941 flag.

MELBOURNE, I think, will match a steady, high-marking, long-kicking game against Essendon. They will keep constant pressure on the Dons. Three kicks at any point of the game might start a succession of goals.

There are fellows in the Melbourne attack who need only the slightest advantage and they'll swing a game right away from their opponents.

Give men like Baggott, Gibb or Smith a few seconds liberty, and they'll wreck the opposition hopes. Mueller lurks around those sticks when he is out of the ruck. Two marks and he is so close to the goals that he can't miss. He is a real trap for a defence.

Yet Essendon have the natural counter to Melbourne's long football. They have pace, can keep the ball low, and can smother well. But to play this type of football successfully they must take risks.

They must open out and drop the shoulder to shoulder football. It will be just at such times that Melbourne might break through boldly and rattle on goals.

To win, Essendon must take all the risks, and yet not give away half a yard to those Melbourne cracks. As I see them, they are not quite good enough to do that.

Melbourne will be constantly pressing in workmanlike fashion, trying hard to force the breaks tha will turn the game their way.

No division threatens Essendon as do the centre lines. Talk as the Dons will, there is no guarantee that Daly, La Fontaine and Anderson, the Melbourne trio, will not thrash Caesar, Lambert, and Coward.

Given an even break the Melbourne centre line would be expected to do more with the ball than the Essendon trio. So that across the centre I would want Essendon to do something more than break even. I can't see them doing it.

The rucks and key men very nearly match up in an easy balance until you start to ask Ruddell, full back, to hold Norman Smith, full forward. Then you begin to wonder.

I can visualise Baggott, the Melbourne centre half-forwarad, with his swaying acrobatics, giving even a champion like Buttsworth a lot of trouble. At the other end Griggs, Essendon's crack centre half-forward, can be matched more effectively. Mueller and Torney shape up for a real tussle in the respective rucks. So there are to be found natural counters for champions, but Melbourne are a better balanced side.

Essendon have made very effective use of handball, but I think they overdo it.

I don't feel that either side shapes up as a real premiership force. There are weaknesses in both eighteens, and the exploitation of a weakness can bring about the advantage both hope to obtain.

I recognise Essendon as a team who have to be reckoned with. They are right at the top of the wave, and they must have something more than a fighting chance.

However, Melbourne carry the guns where they hit more—up forward. They are capable of maintaining relentless pressure. Essendon are something more hit or miss.

SOUTH-EAST FOR SYDNEY TITLE

By "NORWOOD"

ROUGH play marred the preliminary final of the Australian Rules competition between South Sydney and Newtown at Erskineville oval on Saturday. South won with 10.16 to 6.19.

South Sydney will meet Eastern Suburbs in the grand final on Saturday.

The winners showed considerable improvement in play as against that a week earlier against East. If such progress should be maintained South have a good chance of taking the title.

With Piggott back from camp and other positions altered, South played with greater cohesion than Newtown. Starr, who got six goals, is South's hope for Saturday.

Newtown's weakness forward was a big factor in their reverse. They were without Milburn.

Umpire Tom King umpired his 250th match on Saturday and was complimented upon the manner in which he handled the game.

FORWARDS OVERCOME

It was thought that the tall Newtown forwards, Crane, Bolton and Evers, would prove match winners, but what South's shortish defenders, Shennan, Bernsten, Swift and Neale, lacked in height they more than made up for in ground play and general all-round judgment.

Smythe, who had repeatedly saved Newtown on the back line, was sent forward in the last quarter, but although he marked well, he could not get a goal.

South shone in the ruck, with Stiff and Bennett well in the picture as rovers.

Newtown backs too often strayed.

Stiff gave a capital display. His ability to get into top speed in a yard or two was always useful.

The grand final should be a great match. Each side has won two of their four contests.

Player of the Week.

When the Tetley brothers were playing in the semi-final on Saturday, East Fremantle officials must have regretted that the elder had gone to West Perth and not played with East Fremantle. Max, the elder, and Laurie went to the ground together on Saturday and when they parted at the dressing rooms wished each other luck. If those wishes meant success on the field they were granted, for both were conspicuously effective, but Laurie was unfortunate in having to leave the field through a knock.

Max played one of the finest games of his career. He went on the field with the fixed intention of keeping G. Doig subdued and the fact that the latter kicked only two goals testifies to his success. Tetley marked brilliantly, cleared repeatedly with coolness and sound judgment, and his accurate kicking in was a feature of the game. All the West Perth defenders played exceptionally well and they collaborated excellently, each doing his own job and, if able, helping a colleague in difficulties. It was a personal triumph for Tetley and it was very gratifying to club members and supporters. As a junior at North Fremantle Tetley showed distinct promise and when he joined West Perth in 1931 officials realised that they had secured a fine player. Since then Tetley has captained and coached the side and has played over 200 league games. A couple of seasons ago his form was far below his best and he threatened retirement. Last season he played and this year it was believed that he definitely had retired. Then injuries affected the club's playing strength and Tetley agreed to play again. He gave good service as a defender and became goal-keeper, in which position he distinguished himself on Saturday. Tetley is the ideal type of defender. He is very-fair but very attentive, in that he is always very close to his opponent. Very rarely does he fail to have his kick once he gets the ball and he seldom gives away a free-kick.

PREMIERS - 1941.

W·A = WEST PERTH.
VIC = MELBOURNE.
VIC (ASSOC.) = PORT MELBOURNE
S·A = NORWOOD.
TASMANIA =
.NORTH
.HOBART.

A Good One To Essendon

Torney (Essendon) marks cleanly over McLean (Carlton) despite the tricky wind at the M.C.G.—an incident in Saturday's preliminary final.

CARLTON DROP OUT OF FIGHT

ESSENDON defeated a bedraggled Carlton in the League preliminary final on Saturday. Greater than even the vagaries of the fates, nothing conspired to wreck the Blues as much as their own shortcomings.

After their inglorious display against Melbourne a week earlier, it seemed ridiculous to suppose that the team that had led at the end of the first round could repeat such a pitiful performance against Essendon. But they did and so drop out — a strong team, as teams go these days, wondering just what happened.

THERE were 65,105 people eager to see the Blues redeem themselves. They paid a record sum for a preliminary final of £5378/18/ to see an epic.

They thirsted for a game that would commence in a blaze of brilliance, and work up to a fitting climax. All they got was one anti-climax after another.

They wanted to see two fast, clever teams tearing at each other to get the top position. They saw the worst game in a final series I can remember.

There is no doubt that the Melbourne Cricket Ground, practically circled as it is with two-decker stands, is the worst first-class football ground in Victoria. There can be no complaint against the accommodation, which is super. But I am being reluctantly forced to the conclusion that seldom will we see good football played at the M.C.G.

WICKED EDDYING OF WIND

There are breaks in the ring of stands behind the Jolimont goal, and behind the railway goal. They are the only wind inlets or outlet. The slightest wind either tears through the natural openings or swoops down over the top of the stands, creating the most wicked eddying to the general discomfiture and miscalculation of the players.

Such a day was Saturday, when a hot northerly circled around the stands, belching miscalculation and mis-judgment as it tossed the ball like thistledown. Sometimes the ball dropped short. Sometimes it swerved. Sometimes it floated above the clutching fingers. It was like ping-pong in a draft funnel.

Players swirled in packs trying to do something definite with the ball. It was a common sight to see the ball blown willy-nilly the length of the ground, finally to swing out into the open, where it was gathered.

Consequently it was a game of mistakes, Essendon had the ability to turn Carlton's errors to good account and cover their own.

At the effective end of football Essendon were the better, but Carlton had the opportunities to thrash them. In fact, a retrospective survey of the game reveals that Carlton had opportunities at least two to one.

At one stage of the second quarter Carlton brought the ball forward 24 times for four points. They tried ridiculous short passing when a few direct shots probably would have given them the lead. When Essendon, profiting from the gift opportunities Carlton presented them, rattled on 4.2 the game was won by half-time.

Yet had Carlton got the six or eight goals of which they cheated themselves, the game would have been over another way.

In the second quarter it is no exaggeration to say that Carlton could have got 10 goals. Instead, they got four points.

This session of suicide followed a first-class first quarter by the Blues. Throughout the second eighteens game the railway end had been the scoring end. Essendon had first use of it yet at the first change had been so effectively blanketed that they led only by 2.6 to 2.2.

With Carlton to use the wind it was a desperate position for the Dons.

In the third quarter Essendon opened with two quick goals. Carlton then began a battery that might have brought them back into the game.

However, their inaccuracy and forward foolishness were appalling. Their attacks died and Essendon added four more goals in workmanlike fashion.

Not despairing, Carlton made switches and added 5.2 to 1.3 in the last term.

DEVOTEES OF FINESSE

What caused the Carlton collapse? Firstly in both games they lacked a little of their former pace. This robbed them of the breaks into the open that they needed so badly to create their odd-man football. They became devotees of finesse, hating anything so blase as a direct attack on goal. They became almost effeminate in their desire for the frills.

They became introspective. They had only self-pity to cure miscalculation. Finally, the experience that stood Carlton in excellent stead in the home and home games was dragged by ageing legs on the big Melbourne ground. Man for man Carlton averaged 95 games to 67.

The future of Carlton needs careful consideration. There are a group of good players reaching the end of their football trail.

So Carlton drop out, beaten 13.15 9.14—a margin of 4.1 and a margin that a little steadiness might have bridged.

HISTORIC MATCH.

Fremantle Teams in Final.

It was as far back as October 4, 1930, that East Fremantle and South Fremantle last met in a major round match. The match on that occasion was the final (before the present system), and, as East Fremantle, the minor premier, was successful, there was no necessity for a grand final or challenge match. It was a stirring match.

South Fremantle opened with the assistance of a strong wind and kicked 5.6 while East Fremantle scored only two behinds. In 13 minutes of the second quarter East Fremantle equalled and passed South Fremantle's score, Reynolds roving brilliantly. South Fremantle added only one behind and at half-time East Fremantle led with 9.9 to 5.7.

In the third term East Fremantle fought hard against the wind and the play was strenuous. The East Fremantle defence was magnificent and South Fremantle could not score goals. East Fremantle added only one behind, but kept South Fremantle's scoring down to 2.3. The last term opened with East Fremantle leading by two goals—9.10 to 7.10. Then the wind dropped and South Fremantle, seizing the golden opportunity, rallied heroically and drew level. Then East Fremantle summoned up all its resources and, with Jarvis in match-winning form at half-back, regained the lead and had victory in its keeping. East Fremantle won with 12.15 to 9.11.

East Fremantle's best player was Reynolds. Jarvis was in brilliant mood and Gabrielson and Richards combined with him to play some of the finest half-back football seen in this State. Laffin, Bee, Laurie, L. Jones, Baird, Woods and James were other valuable players in the team. South Fremantle's most serviceable men were Holt and Loveridge. Holt was untiring at half-back and Loveridge had a great deal of ruck work to do, as Retell was absent. Hicks, A. Lawn, E. Lawn, Clatworthy, McGuinness, White and Smith were handy.

Goal-kickers for East Fremantle were Bee (2), Lethridge (2), Glass (2), Laffin (2), Butcher, Telfer, Laurie and Woods. South Fremantle's goal-kickers were:—A. Lawn (3), McGuinness (2), Smith (2), Clatworthy and E. Lawn.

There were several "incidents" during the game and six players were charged with having committed breaches of the rules:—

Following were the teams:—

East Fremantle.—Backs: James, Woods, Baird. Half-backs: Richards, Jarvis, O. Gabrielson. Centres: Buchanan, Jones, Laurie. Half-forwards: Bee, Dolan, Butcher. Forwards: Curnack, Glass, Lethridge. Ruck: Telfer, Laffin, Reynolds (rover). 19th man: Chenwidden.

South Fremantle.—Backs: Dixon Jennings, Pear. Half-backs: Holt, Edgar, Butcher. Centres: Farrell, White, O'Connor. Half-forwards: Clatworthy, R. Dolg, E. Lawn. Forwards: Loveridge, A. Lawn, Smith. Ruck: Hicks, Shanahan, McGuinness (rover). 19th man: Robertson.

Port's Great Finish

FOR the second year in succession Port Melbourne have won through to the Association grand final.

THEIR two points win from Prahran in the second semi-final was well merited, as they fielded a weakened team and defeated one at full strength. Once again they gave a splendid display of all-round team-work rather than individual brilliance.

Port's patched-up team proved too clever for Prahran. A splendid job was done in attack, where the spearheads, Ted Preyer and Austin Robertson, had to be replaced.

Tom Lahiff has proved a good leader and his handling of the team played a big part in the success. Port are now firm favorites for the 1941 title, as they will be at full strength for the grand final.

Prahran were disappointing and at times against Port played as listlessly as in the 1940 grand final. The hard grounds and rising barometers of the end of the season are not to their liking.

In the preliminary final on Saturday Prahran will face another stiff hurdle in Coburg.

Quarter scores of the second semi-final were—

	Port Melbourne.	Prahran
1st	2.0.12	3.4.52
2nd	8.3.56	3.4.52
3rd	10.11.71	12.14.86
FINAL	15.19.109	15.17.107

GRAND FINAL

The League grand final on Saturday will be

MELBOURNE v. ESSENDON at M.C.G., 2.45.

League Seconds Grand Final: Fitzroy v. Essendon (early game).

Wednesday, September 24, 1941

MELBOURNE SHOULD WIN THIRD TITLE

"Class" Team To Match Brilliance

MELBOURNE should win the League premiership at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday against Essendon. There is a touch of "class" about the Demons that is lacking in the Dons. Neither side is a really good combination, but in Essendon there are too many "if" players, while at the business end of the ground, forward, the Demons are well organised and efficient.

Football Section Conducted by H. A. deLACY

TO choose between Melbourne and Essendon is something of a guess. Neither has been driven to the utmost in the preliminary games. As they face each other for the grand final there are many questions, still requiring an answer, one of which is: Can Melbourne counter accurate pace? Or, again, can Essendon maintain poise and balance opposed to constant direct pressure?

Essendon always had the whip hand of Richmond in the semi-final. They went on to win as they liked. Melbourne jumped Carlton at the first bounce, and thereafter were able to take reasonable time about everything they did, and still hold a four to five goal lead.

In Saturday's preliminary final Essendon again had the game in hand in the first half against Carlton. But Essendon finished a tired, sore team.

Several Essendon players were glad to hear the final bell. However, if they finished tired they had done the job in conditions that were hot and sultry and against football. Still Essendon did not finish full of running.

FORCED TO THEIR TOP

My tip is that Essendon had been forced by the trend of the game to play to the bitter end. In other circumstances, considering their general success and their lead, they might have been able to coast through from half-way through the third term.

However, there were one or two Essendon players who, for one reason or another, always had to pay too much attention to opposing players. Naturally there were reprisals. Carlton took risks, but they handed back a physical hammering that must have left Essendon sore, as well as tired.

Butterworth, Griggs, Dick Reynolds and Plummer were only four of many who were left stretched out on the turf. They soon recovered, but they must have known that someone had left their card.

The chief Essendon offender was Cassin, who did unnecessary things. He played well, was one of Essendon's best; in fact—but the reprisals his play brought might well go a long way toward defeating Essendon for the premiership.

Carlton came back hard in everything Essendon offered in physical clashes. Much of it was quite fair; but, fair or doubtful, it was meant, and it hurt.

So it was hot sea baths for Essendon on Sunday morning in an effort to ease the bruises.

On Saturday, Dick Reynolds had influenza. He played flat out until he fell for want of strength. Dick was exhausted at the finish. Some reaction is not an impossibility.

Meanwhile Melbourne have had an opportunity to get over bruises and should field a very fit side.

KEY PARTS AND KEY COUNTERS

Important as the physical condition of the teams is, these considerations can be disregarded for the moment.

Both teams fit, there is found a remarkable series of key parts and key counters.

Melbourne life lines include La Fontaine, Baggott, Norman Smith, Mueller, and their wing men, Anderson and Daly.

To oppose Baggott, at centre half-forward, Essendon advance Buttsworth, and that is a satisfactory checkmate. Torney stands out as a more consistent player than Mueller. Both are keystones in their respective rucks.

Essendon have champions in their attack in Griggs and Bryce. Melbourne have natural counters in Lock and Emselle. Brilliant and clever as is Griggs, Lock would be his match in everything and considering that Griggs would have to turn to make his ground while Lock has a straight-ahead passage, the odds are on his holding Griggs.

Bryce is a most difficult man to counter. Emselle has a natural persistence that removes difficulties.

The Melbourne attack is strong to the poont almost of invincibility. The Essendon defence is among the most talented in today's football.

So the pros and cons of these teams can be measured up until the centres are considered. Here young Lambert must check the season's champion, La Fontaine. Lambert is a good, persistent player, but he lacks the football of La Fontaine. The Essendon wings might well be beaten comfortably by Anderson and Daly. Caesar has yet to play an outstanding game in the series on one Essendon flank. Coward has done well. However, right across the centre it looks like Melbourne—with something to spare.

One danger to Melbourne is that they will be pitting an inexperienced second ruck against a hard-knocking Essendon pack in Cassin, Hird and Exelby.

The Melbourne ruck, Dullard, Don Cordner and Heal, have never been in a Victorian grand final. In this Melbourne pack is individual talent far above the Essendon trio, but the point is whether its collective effectiveness can be offset.

If this ruck is drooping, however, Melbourne can quickly swing in men of the Hingston, Wartman type, men who can hit hard and race on. There is ample reserve in Melbourne's favor in the rucks.

Essendon match-tried and talented players in Torney, Gordon Abbott, Hird and Cassin against Mueller, Fischer, Dullard and Don Cordner. But behind the Melbourne strength are additional players who can take a quick switch on the ball to the general benefit and uplift of the side.

However, it is across the centre and in attack that Melbourne appear so superior to Essendon. To beat the Demons the Dons must win across the centre. That will take doing.

The Melbourne defence has shaken down and looks more than capable of blanketing Essendon's individualistic and decidedly "if" attack.

DONS HAVE THE PACE

The last consideration is the pace of Essendon, which, I think, is greater than Melbourne's. Essendon play cleverly in skirmishing formation, using their handball to advantage. Against this, Melbourne pit marking and long direct work.

In a final analysis, in Melbourne is that touch of class and experience and the ability to stand up to battery without losing poise or initiative.

Essendon splash brilliance, but there is something "if" about their design and the performance of some of their individuals.

The League premiership has never been won from the third or fourth positions since the introduction of the Page system of deciding finals. Essendon, therefore, have every opportunity of making football history.

Melbourne Win Vic. Grand Final

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

Melbourne today retained their record of never having been beaten in the five times they have contested the league football premiership final.

Essendon played greatly improved football in the second half, and actually scored 11.14 to Melbourne's 8.4.

However, Melbourne's lead in the first half was sufficient to give them the final victory by 29 points.

Beames kicked six goals for Melbourne, and Smith four. This brought Smith to head of the league goalkicking list this season, with a total of 88, the next being Murray, of North Melbourne, and Titus, Richmond, each with 87.

Coward won the trophy given today for the best Essendon player, and was probably the best man on the ground. Another Western Australian, Heal, was one of Melbourne's best.

Today's attendance of 77,743 was well below the league record of 96,834, but today's takings, £6507, were close to former record of £6804.

Results:—

League Grand Final: Melbourne, 19.13, beat Essendon, 13.20.

Association Final: Coburg, 1912, beat Prahan, 13.7.

Their victory today gave them three successive premierships, equalling the performances of Carlton and Collingwood.

Within a few seconds of the ball being bounced today, Essendon goaled, but then faded out, Melbourne scoring 6.6, while their opponents scored only another behind.

Melbourne in the second quarter continued their victorious way, and at half-time the scores were Melbourne, 11.9; Essendon, 2.6.

City Easily Win Premiership

City's defeat of North Launceston in the grand final, by 65 points, was an anti-climax after the final, in which North won by a point in the last few minutes. Leading all the way, City were never seriously challenged to win the premiership and the right to play for the State title at Hobart.

DINNY KELLEHER, City's coach since 1939, announced his retirement before this match. The premiership was in many ways a triumph for him, as he made radical changes in the placing of his side, made the regular full forward 19th man and played there himself. Kelleher did not score a goal but was an effective decoy.

City's lead at the first change was 5-2 and that was the closest North got. While North had much of the play for three quarters, they broke down repeatedly on the forward lines. City showed that its form in the final was all wrong and had the best of play all over the field.

J. Connell's ruck work marked him as the best player in the side, and Stocks, Blumfield, Wadley (2) and Parsons shone. Outstanding for North was Wardlaw at centre half-back. He was the most consistent man in the team throughout. Lette and Pettiona worked hard against superior opposition.

STREMPEL MEDAL.

One of the most coveted trophies in junior football in this State is the Strempel Medal, an annual award for the fairest and best player in the Metropolitan Junior Football Association. Among well-known players who have won it are N. McDiarmid, E. O'Keefe, S. Clarke, and E. Henfry. This year N. Lummis, a 19-year-old centre-man for Nedlands, won the medal. He gained 27 points, and, having nine first preferences, won the medal from N. Carr (Mt. Lawley), whose 27pts. came from seven first and three second preferences.

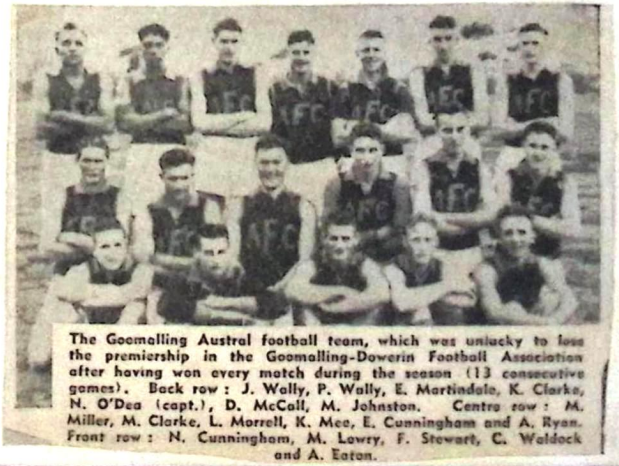
Lummis, who is 5.6 in height and weighs 9.12, has been most consistent. He learnt his football under R. Buchanan at the Claremont Central School and played on the wing in the 1936 State schoolboys' team. He played for Nedlands in the Temperance League for four seasons and this year appeared with the Claremont league team in scratch matches. His elder brother, Ern, is a rover and he was fourth in the Strempel Medal voting with 16pts. "I am most pleased about my success for my father's sake," said Norman Lummis this week. "He is Private G. H. Lummis with the A.I.F. abroad and he is sure to welcome the news."

N. Lummis, the winner of the Strempel Medal.

Rival 'Sneaks Shake On It

W.A.'S CRACK FORWARDS.

George Doig, East Fremantle skipper and goalsneak, shaking hands with Ted Tyson, the West Perth sharp-shooter, before yesterday's game. Tyson, with four goals against Doig's two, claimed the honors on the day.



The Goomalling Austral football team, which was unlucky to lose the premiership in the Goomalling-Dowerin Football Association after having won every match during the season (13 consecutive games). Back row: J. Wally, P. Wally, E. Martindale, K. Clarke, N. O'Dea (capt.), D. McCall, M. Johnston. Centre row: M. Miller, M. Clarke, L. Morrell, K. Mee, E. Cunningham and A. Ryan. Front row: N. Cunningham, M. Lowry, F. Stewart, C. Waldock and A. Eaton.

(JUNIORS) SWAN DISTRICTS FOOTBALL CLUB.

EAST PERTH POLICE BOYS' FOOTBALL CLUB.

Right to left: S. Pala (captain), H. Dodd, J. Eddison, H. Weaver, R. Thompson, J. Washer, R. Hindes, N. Reiger, D. Kennedy, A. Kelly, W. Toy, H. Seale, D. Gore, R. Taylor, E. Galliott, N. O'Neill, M. Kelly and T. Abrahamson.

R. HINDES WHO IS PICTURED HERE WON THE FAIREST & BEST TROPHY FOR THIS YEAR IN THE JUNIOR FOOTBALL.

PREMIERSHIP STRUGGLE

West Perth Awaits Challenge.

(By "FOLLOWER.")

Form indicates that South Fremantle and West Perth will meet in the league football grand final on October 11, but that is by no means certain to happen. East Fremantle still is in the hunt, despite its inferior display last Saturday, and it has a habit of playing at its best in vital matches. On Saturday East Fremantle and South Fremantle will be opposed in the final and the struggle for the right to meet West Perth in the grand final promises to be most strenuous.

AS long as the present system of deciding the premiership—with four matches in the major round guaranteed—is continued, there will always be arguments regarding the effect on a team of the loss of a Saturday's play through a victory in a semi-final. It has been said that certain teams prefer to lose the second semi-final so as to have continuity of play and hard match practice. That may be right or wrong. A team would take a big risk if it were to lose deliberately, for the final is always hard-fought, injuries are probable, and it should be harder to win two matches than one.

West Perth, South Fremantle and East Fremantle remain the only premiership contenders, as before last Saturday. The difference in the positions is that West Perth is guaranteed the right to play in the grand final, whereas East Fremantle and South Fremantle, the keenest of rivals, have to play for that right next Saturday. When the present major round system was introduced in 1931 East Fremantle won both the second semi-final and the grand final. In 1932 West Perth and in 1933 East Fremantle performed similarly. But since then there has been only one instance of a team winning the premiership after a victory in the second semi-final. West Perth lost the second semi-final to East Fremantle in 1934 but outplayed it in the grand final. A year later Subiaco defeated West Perth in the second semi-final but was beaten by that team in the grand final. In 1937 East Fremantle lost to Claremont in the second semi-final, but the tables were turned in the grand final. Claremont won the second semi-final in 1938, drew with East Fremantle in the grand final, and won the replay by 3.4. Two years ago East Fremantle's easy victory in the second semi-final suggested its superiority but Claremont improved and won the grand final. Last year South Fremantle played brilliantly in the second semi-final against Claremont. Then Claremont won the final from East Fremantle and beat South Fremantle in the grand final.

There is evidence in recent results, therefore, that defeat in the second semi-final does not necessarily mean the loss of premiership hopes. Again, the records suggest that South Fremantle will have to excel itself to win the premiership. Only one team—East Perth in 1936—has won the first semi-final, final and grand final. But the past cannot speak for the present. This year Melbourne beat Carlton in the second semi-final and last Saturday outclassed Essendon in the grand final. Last year Melbourne was beaten in the second semi-final and won the premiership.

After West Perth's notable victory on Saturday the coach (R. Hutchinson) made no secret of his delight but he was not carried away by the success. "I am convinced that our pace beat East Fremantle," he said to the players. "We were in excellent condition and I can only ascribe that to keen training and keenness in match play. During last week-end, when we had a bye, we played a match against Mt. Hawthorn and this week-end we will do the same. Too much attention cannot be paid to fitness."

J. Dolan's story was different. "Our men were badly beaten," he said. "There was not a thing in the book that they did not do wrongly and only in the last ten minutes, when the match had been lost, did they show anything like their true form. I am not attempting to detract from the merit of West Perth's performance, for I believe that a team plays only as well as its opponent allows it to play. I do think, however, that our players have had too easy a time lately." He pointed out that on September 6 East Fremantle won easily from Subiaco and with even greater ease from Swan Districts on September 13. Then, on September 20, the team had a bye. "This week the training will be hard."

There is good reason to believe that East Fremantle will display better form on Saturday. Its forward lines have seldom, if ever, been so completely overpowered and its kicking so erratic, while the bigger men will be extremely unpopular if the ruck work is not vastly improved. South Fremantle, of course, will have something to say about that. Just as East Fremantle was beaten for pace against West Perth, so Claremont lost to South Fremantle because its condition was not good enough. South Fremantle can play very fast football and several of its most brilliant efforts have been achieved at Subiaco Oval.

One has to go to 1927 in the records to find when South Fremantle last beat East Fremantle in a major round match. In that year South Fremantle beat East Fremantle in the first semi-final by eight points. There is a gap then to 1917, when South Fremantle beat East Fremantle, 7.6 to 5.10, in the final and won the challenge match against it with 6.5 to 3.8.

During the past six seasons, including 1941, East Fremantle and South Fremantle have met 18 times and each has won nine matches. As a further indication of the evenness of the teams during that period, East Fremantle has scored 263 goals 234 behinds in those games and South Fremantle's tally is 244 goals 244 behinds.

GRAND FINALIST IN TWO STATES

When sailor-footballer Stan Heal strips with West Perth for the grand final next Saturday, he will become the first player in Australia to have been in two grand finals in the same season.

'Pops' Heal Returns

S. "Pops" Heal, champion West Perth wing man, who since his transfer with the navy to Victoria has been playing brilliantly with the Melbourne Club returned to Perth by the Westland express yesterday.

Heal last Saturday played for Melbourne in the Victorian grand final. .

Soon after the match finished, he learnt that his old club, West Perth, had qualified for the grand final of the West Australian League.

Heal returned to Perth today with a naval draft, will take the field with his old club next Saturday.

"Victoria is certainly the place for football," he said. "I got a great thrill last Saturday, but, even this did not exceed the pleasure that I got out of West Perth's great win over East Fremantle.

"They play it harder and faster in Melbourne and there is better co-operation on the field."

Heal became popular with Melbourne Club, to whom he gave excellent service. He was again selected amongst their best last Saturday.

Asked if he might return to Melbourne as a player after the war, Heal said that Melbourne Club officials told him that if the opportunity ever occurred they would be delighted to have him back.

"I think I would be tempted to accept the invitation," Heal said.

He was a member of the Melbourne side that on September 27 won the Victorian grand final in the presence of nearly 80,000 people.

Now transferred back to Western Australia, Heal will reappear with his old club, West Perth, in the W.A. League grand final next Saturday.

Describing his experiences in Melbourne, Heal said that they had proved beneficial to his football and thrilling to himself.

The game in Melbourne was harder and faster than it was in this State, and players there seemed to help each other more during matches—in the sense that they "backed up" better.

Heal said he did not know whether Melbourne's victory on September 27 gave him greater pleasure than the news received the same night that his old club had defeated East Fremantle in the semi-final and had qualified in the grand final.

Melbourne club had informed him that if opportunity offered he would be welcome to go back there as a player at any time.

MEMORABLE GAMES.

SCORE-CARDS DISPUTED.

Tie and Replay in 1905.

To force a draw in the challenge match, being credited with a point which was disputed generally, and then to win the replay was the experience of West Perth in 1905 and the unlucky team was East Fremantle. West Perth won that memorable premiership but it was not until 1932 that it was again successful. It rose to the crest of a wave in 1932, finishing third in 1933, and winning the premiership in 1934 and 1935 with grand final victories over East Fremantle and Subiaco, respectively.

In 1905 West Perth had the right of challenge and it met East Fremantle on Fremantle Oval on September 30. It was a low-scoring, rough game. At three-quarter time East Fremantle led with 6.3 to 3.9. West Perth attacked fiercely and first Ford and then O'Brien goaled. East Fremantle fought back desperately and scored a behind. West Perth was a point ahead and Sharpe's place-kick for a behind made the scores level and the result a tie.

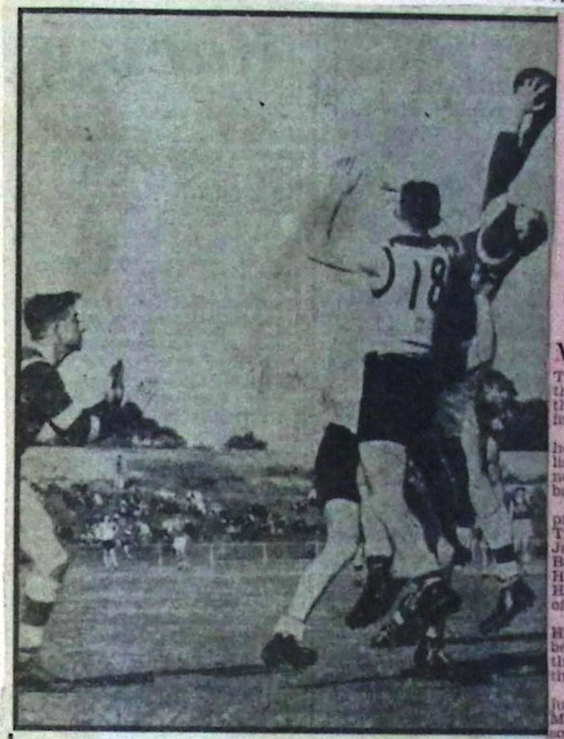
But that tie was recorded by the goal umpires only and a heated dispute arose. The scoreboard at quarter-time showed West Perth's score as 2.3, not 2.4 as the goal umpires stated, and at the end the board had East Fremantle a point in front. Persons who kept a check on the scores thought that East Fremantle was the winner and the six Pressmen in the box had that result. Nevertheless, the umpires adhered to their opinion. East Fremantle supporters were enraged and it was suggested that Supreme Court action should be taken to settle the case. However, a meeting of the W.A. Football Association (the league was not formed until 1906) was held to clarify the position.

At the outset one of the delegates asked whether any delegate who had bet on the match should be allowed to sit at the table and the chairman (Mr. R. O'Neil) ruled that there was nothing in the rules to the contrary. The chairman ruled also that the scores as presented by the goal umpires must stand, having been tabled and adopted. A ruling from the Victorian league indicated that the match must be replayed and delegates came to such an agreement. The case was said to be without parallel in football history.

On October 7, at North Fremantle Oval, the match was replayed and the gate receipts (£175) constituted a record for the ground. Early in the piece West Perth's handball and agility gave it a superiority and Renfrey kept a close watch on Dolph Heinrichs. S. H. D. Rowe scored the first point for West Perth and both McNamara and Champion goaled. Free-kicks were plentiful. West Perth's defence was great in the second term and East Fremntle lacked cohesion. Sharpe opened its score with a behind; the forward work was so poor that T. Wilson shifted himself from half-back to organise the forwards. C. Doig goaled but East Fremantle was in arrears at half-time—1.6 to 2.4.

CAMERA HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SOUTH FREMANTLE VS. EAST FREMANTLE FINAL GAME.

B. Naylor (South Fremantle) and W. Haddow (East Fremantle) fly high in the South Fremantle forward lines in yesterday's final. Haddow handed out a fine exhibition of goalkeeping, beating the South sneak, who had played so well in the first semi.



HIGH NOTE • East Fremantle captain George Doig poses maestro-like as team-mate B. Daniell reaches high above South Fremantle's E. Graham to take a mark in today's league final at Subiaco.

THE DEMONS WERE LOGICAL WINNERS

MELBOURNE'S win was a triumph for the three T's of football—talent, temperament, and tenacity. The Demons had players above the ordinary, and as a team could be "gingered" up for the big occasion. They always had the determination to hang on when they could not advance and then take advantage of any break the game offered.

Of first importance was the ability of their forwards to put goals on the board in workmanlike fashion.

MELBOURNE are typical of the classic side in Australian football. There are weaknesses, though even these have been gradually reduced as the season developed. There is genius in every part of the field.

Considering that Melbourne paid heavily for the war through the enlistment of talented players, the manner in which they re-established team balance and dominance is remarkable.

A quick survey of other Melbourne premiership teams shows that Keith Truscott, Gordon Jones, Les Jones, Jack Furness, Hal Ball, the late Ron Barassi, Maher, Jack Atkins, Rodda, H. Murnane, Fanning, Frank Roberts, Hingston and Roly Fischer were out of Saturday's eighteen.

With the exception of Fischer and Hingston, these men either have not been available for the season or, as in the case of Rodda and Roberts, for the major part of the season at least.

In that list of enlistments and injuries is a team of premiership calibre. Melbourne have come through troublesome times this season, and at one stage their form was so bad that it seemed unlikely that they could regain a place in the finals.

Gradually a definite line-up was assembled, however. The greatest difficulties arose in defence and in the second ruck. The rovers were not all they might have been, and there was a lack of drive and stability that militated against success.

CARRIED THE SIDE

But if the back door was swinging open, the front door was withstanding every challenge. The forwards and centres carried the side through the lean periods. Then, as the defence stabilise ditself and the ruck work improved, something of the real Melbourne was seen.

Yet just before the semi-final—in the last of the home and home games—the Demons were routed and their rucks made to seem second-rate by Carlton.

Facing a desperate chance they included young Don Cordner from the University and the move worked out trumps. That was their one lucky break in the season.

There have been gains in personnel as well as losses. In three seasons the centre half-back position has not been as regularly well filled as by Ted Cordner, from University. He is a really great player in the making until it comes to kicking. In that his style is awkward, but he does better than might be expected.

From Western Australia, as a naval rating, came Heal. He showed his class both as rover and wing man. Heal is a Victorian in method and ability, and I believe we have yet to see the best of this player, good and all as his displays have been.

Dullard is now a first-class big man, able to mark and to kick with the best of them.

His form towards the end of the season did a lot to offset the loss of Hal Ball, who was Melbourne's champion in the 1940 series.

McGrath developed a real instinct for goal-keeping, and released Lock for the more expansive half-back work.

Daly played excellently on the wing, and then in a flash became a rover. He was one of the finds of the season. He is another ugly kick, but he does things with the ball. Both Ted Cordner and Laly need a better kicking style, however.

But when the accounting has been finished—the losses and the gains compared—the old reliables carried the side.

Norman Smith has never played as well full-forward. Ron Baggott worked slowly into the best form he has shown. He was freakish in his methods, but unbeatable. Maurie Gibb returned to the brilliant Gibb of three years back.

Mueller did not always play good football, but in the real stuff his genius in the air and his long, driving kicks were real aces in Melbourne hands.

Lock was a class defender. Behind him Rich Emselle let no man beat him. His defence was magnificent.

BEAMES, REAL SUNBEAM

Percy Beames retired after the 1940 Grand Final, but was back again better, if anything, than before. It was Melbourne's joy that he was. No man did more in the final series.

Roly Fischer played brilliantly at times, though he did not see games out as well as previously. O'Keefe had his days.

The centre line was unbeaten. Anderson was one of the season's best wing men. La Fontaine dominated every centre. Daly and Heal held the other wing. Wartman transferred to a half-forward wing and was invaluable with his pace and dash.

Around these stalwarts Melbourne wound new fabric to match the old. The result was really a re-built machine rather than a repair job. There was nothing patched up about the final presentation display of this year's premiers.

Behind the team, unruffled in adversity, never overlooking detail, never blinded by success, was coach "Checker" Hughes. He knew his men and he worked with them and on them. The result did him credit.

Lemon goaled for West Perth in the third quarter and the standard of play improved. Hunter kicked a goal for East Fremantle and Lemon goaled again. East Fremantle was fighting valiantly against the wind.

Play was rough in the last quarter, at the start of which West Perth led with 4.4 to 2.7. Many breaches were committed and "the umpiring became so bad that the unusual and undignified spectacle was seen of players indignantly protesting to the umpire." West Perth's defenders worked like Trojans. Goals could not be scored and only behinds were registered. With 10 minutes to go East Fremantle was 10 points in arrears. By now almost all the 36 players were on the ball and the play was fierce. East Fremantle attacked desperately and C. Doig goaled. Almost simultaneously, however, the bell sounded and West Perth won with 4.7 to 3.9.

Player of the Week.

There are some players who give the same sound service week after week; they may not be brilliant but they are never weak. Conversely, there are some men who are either very good or are sadly out of touch. A. Ebbs, East Fremantle's tall ruck man, could not be placed in the first category and a review of his form in the last two matches must persuade one to place him in the second. Since Ebbs joined East Fremantle he has been valuable, especially when the team has badly needed height in the ruck, but he has not been consistent. At times he has been brilliant, dominating the play, and on other occasions he has worried his supporters.

In the second semi-final against West Perth, Ebbs was one of many whose form was poor. He lacked pace and his judgment was at fault, while he seldom knocked the ball out from the ruck. Last Saturday a different Ebbs was seen. From the first bounce he was full of zeal and confidence and he prevented the South Fremantle followers from knocking to their smaller colleagues. For some time, however, Ebbs wasted his energy by knocking out aimlessly and repeatedly South Fremantle got the ball. Then he began to take more care and the result was that South Fremantle could not take the initiative from the bounce or the throw-in. And Ebbs had able support from East Fremantle's other ruck men, though he towered over them and his opponents when going for the ball. He backed up admirably and when in defence did not make a mistake. His ground play was exceptionally good for a tall man and his kicks were long.

Once he burst through at top pace and, with a low punt, gave Daniell straight ahead of him a perfect pass. East Fremantle supporters pray that this Ebbs will be seen in the grand final.

HOW MELBOURNE WON 1941 TITLE

'Always Had a Lot In Reserve

THE League premiership is over. Melbourne completed a "hat-trick"—1939-1940-1941.

Essendon, their opponents in the grand final on Saturday, did not make a game of it. At times the Dons played like novices before the masterful football of Melbourne, who scored 10 goals in rapid succession before Essendon could add to the one with which they opened the game.

THE day was a wash-out for the 77,746 people, who paid £6507/7/ to see a game anticipated to bring out the finest phases of Australian football.

The game proved a monotonous exhibition of Melbourne supremacy. They were the class team holding the opposition at will, a team always able to come back in offence to score here and there and so maintain something of a nine-goal advantage after that had been established.

The Essendon endeavors largely consisted of blind rushes and fierce struggling to get the ball, only to give it away again.

GOAL IN 15 SECONDS

The Dons opened with a goal—just two kicks and through she sailed—first blood to Essendon within a quarter-minute of the start. Then they stood wondering while Melbourne added 10.9. Came Essendon's goal just before half-time. By then, with the scores 11.9 to 2.6, a disgruntled crowd realised that the Dons weren't in it.

A typical Victorian northerly fanned the disappointment of the crowd, as papers and dust flew harum-scarum.

Even an Essendon rally in the third term failed to raise the enthusiasm of a crowd which, in their disappointment at a ruined contest, lost sight of the excellence of Melbourne's football. Perhaps they realised that the Demons were holding Essendon at will, that any gains the Dons made were practically on sufferance; and that at any tick of the clock the Demons could recover any position in the game they chose.

Nothing Essendon could do could induce the crowd into believing that anything but an overwhelming Melbourne victory was possible.

At three-quarter time the scores were Melbourne 14.11 to 6.13—a slight fattening of Essendon's portion.

In the last term Essendon added 7.7 to 5.2, but that did not worry the Demons in the slightest. The match had been won in accomplished fashion long before. The final scores were: Melbourne, 19.13; Essendon, 13.20.

How did it happen? In the first place Melbourne approached the game confidently.

Football Section
Conducted by
H. A. DE LACY

The Demons went out sure of themselves. Essendon players had a complex about certain Melbourne champions. Consequently, at the outset, Abbott and Torney, a winning Essendon ruck, were both making Mueller the object of their attentions and forgetting about their own natural football. Result, Mueller got the hit-out when he did not receive a free. Essendon's promised ruck supremacy vanished. Mueller became a match-winner. Torney ended trying to chase wing men.

DONS KICK POORLY

Then as the Essendon defence battled to keep out repeated attacks, poor kicking kept them hard at it. Kicking of the defenders were so wild that they never reached where they should have gone and were mostly gathered by the Melbourne centre line, or the Melbourne half-backs, and returned.

There can be only one conclusion to such matters. The most talented attack in football today cannot be allowed many, and certainly not frequently repeated, opportunities. Goal was added to goal and soon even the persistence of the Essendon defenders deteriorated to affairs of personal attention. Finally, resistance broke down altogether.

Doing the work of the big men, little Coward tried desperately to rally Essendon. He took personal risks as he threaded the legs and hips of the bigger fellows. He tried to win the game with his own kicks.

But do as he would, the best Essendon player on the field was having his own troubles. On every odd occasion his own opponent, Sid Anderson, was pulling down a brilliant mark or driving the ball forward. While Coward was busy trying to revive the centres, stimulate the attack, and rally the rucks and defenders, his opponent, Anderson, was playing a telling role on the wing.

There were occasions when the Dons took a profitable hand, but at such times there were always Melbourne men standing by in watchful inactivity. If the attack became too persistent, Mueller or La Fontaine, or Wartman or Baggott, or Heal or this one or that took a hand and rattled on a brace of goals. Essendon's triumph was only a captive's success.

So talent and reserve first brow-beat indecision and lack of confidence, and then as the fallen Dons strove to regain poise and accuracy a thrust here and there unbalanced them again. Melbourne held undoubted supremacy.

AN INPENETRABLE LOCK

No player did better than Wally Lock. His defence was the classic example of offensive defence. He was safe and accurate, brilliant and determined, and he never failed to drive the ball to a team-mate in attack.

Mueller played the part of the real ace. He won the game, then rested. He came back to keep it won and then went home.

Beames, as his rover, was the bee that stung Essendon all day—six goals and the finest display of roving in the series.

Heal, West Australian, won hands down on one wing. He has the way of making clever things look routine.

Baggott, Smith, Wartman and Gibb were a finely co-ordinated attack. Dullard carried on the big man's ruck work when Mueller rested. La Fontaine received a lot of attention, but survived it. Daly was a fast, battling rover, and a good one. The defenders, McGrath and Emselle, were excellent.

After the ubiquitous Coward, Abbott, in the ruck, was a brilliant performer. He fought himself to the front despite strong opposition and little support.

Big Hugh Torney gave all he had too early, and ran himself into the ground. Plummer did well in his endeavor to hold up an erratic defence. Buttsworth was half and half—a winner early, but well beaten before half-time by the evasive lathe-like Baggott. Green was wild but willing. He did many excellent things. He never stopped fighting a lost cause, but his poor delivery gave too much away.

Lambert should think of what arose from the few opportunities his opponent, La Fontaine, was allowed. If he takes the lesson to heart his football will improve with better delivery. Lane was the best of the forwards, who were usually lured too far away from goal.

It was a poor Essendon performance however, and it is indeed flattery to enlarge the list of good players.

Coburg-Port For V.F.A. Honors

Coburg and Port Melbourne are left to decide the Association title. Coburg earned the right to appear on the M.C.G. in the grand final by soundly trouncing Prahran in the preliminary final.

THE issue was never in doubt, for the fast Coburg side raced away at the first bell and never had less than six goals' advantage.

Prahran were forced to play without full-forward Lyons. This seemed to disorganise the attack, and it was not until the last quarter that it functioned with any understanding. Coburg were at full strength, with Pratt as the spearhead. He got six goals.

Coburg were strong in all parts of the field. Ron Wilson made a reappearance at centre half-back, and was a tower of strength. Coburg are fortunate that he has recovered from his leg injury for the final series.

Prahran were lumbering, and never seemed able to cope with the dash and combination of Coburg.

FRACAS ON GROUND

A fracas marred the closing stages, in which players, trainers and spectators were involved. The crowd surged over the fence, and police were hard pressed to check the outbreak.

Three players have been reported—Milte and Hore (Coburg), and Gravell (Prahran). The Coburg pair are the mainstays of the ruck.

Many fancy Coburg for the season's honors. It is fitting that they and Port should be left to decide the issue, as they have both been the outstanding teams throughout the season.

Beames Snaps Up A Chance

Beames (Melbourne rover) scoops up the ball when Ruddell (Essendon) falls after attempting to mark near Melbourne's goal. Reynolds, Essendon's captain, leaps over his fallen team-mate as he enters the fray.

Record Receipts Total Of £21,520

THE takings at the League Grand Final on Saturday created a record total of aggregate receipts—£21,520 18/6, as against £19,389/19/ in 1938. The aggregate attendances this year fell a long way short of 1938, when 290,703 people attended the final series, as against 261,654 this year. 1938 was the year of the record crowd of more than 96,000.

The increase in receipts is due to the increased charges for admission.

Trophy To Coward

A TROPHY given by Hoyt's Circle Theatre, Essendon, for the most serviceable Essendon player in the grand final was awarded to Ernie Coward on the vote of Gordon Rattray, a Globe writer. The team will be entertained at the theatre on Thursday, when the trophy will be handed over.

Scores:—

	Coburg.	Prahran.
1st quarter	8.3.51	1.5.11
2nd quarter ..	14.7.91	6.7.43
3rd quarter ..	16.12.120	6.9.45
FINAL	19.12.126	13.17.95

ESSENDON, HIT-OR-MISS SIDE

THE eclipse of Essendon in the League grand final came as a minor catastrophe to many people, who had mistaken the glamorous exteriors of this side as a real football structure that would overthrow Melbourne's football machine.

The game, on the merits of the day, turned out as it should have done. Melbourne worked on a sound football foundation. The Dons were jerry-built.

FOR two seasons Essendon officials have mistaken frolicking for class. Surely the first principle of winning football is to know what to do with the ball when possession has been obtained.

Pace without patience produces a rabble against well-applied pressure. Are there more than half a dozen Essendon men who know what they intend to do with a ball before they get it? Most of them in the last two seasons have just blazed away, kicking anywhere, hopeful that chance will favor them and that somehow out of a collection of spare parts co-ordination will find itself.

Whatever combination that has existed under pressure has been the personal bracketing of individualism—at times one man looking for a particular friend forward, and so on. This resulted in the mis-use rather than the best use of the ball.

Battling was misnamed mastery. Even in the defence—and the defenders stood alone in Essendon's foundational structure—there were at least two men who were wretched kicks. The defence was obstinate, but never accomplished.

Essendon should take a lesson from the work of Lock, Melbourne wing half-back during the series. Lock, by his clever kicking, not only relieved his goal, but opened out an immediate attack on the opposition strongholds.

There was insufficient of this type of football in Essendon.

STRONG INDIVIDUAL TALENT

In individual talent Essendon can claim a strong hand. The ruck work of Torney is outstanding. Griggs is a brilliant exponent of forward play. At centre half-back Buttsworth resembles the best types we have produced. Obstinate in all things, Plummer defends his goal like a traditional diehard.

Young Lane looks more the forward every week. Coward is an accomplished small man. H. Lambert, when he perfects his delivery, should develop into a fighting type of centre. Gordon Abbott has rare gifts as a fast big man. Bryce is a difficult pocket forward. But name these men and a few others that might meet individual fancies, and thereafter the side tails off.

Dick Reynolds has been one of our greatest players but he has lost something of his pace and consequently cannot force openings as he previously did.

All this may be fighting words to the Essendon supporter who believes in his team come what may. But the blind beliefs of the partisan will not bring premierships.

The truth must be faced that in a football sense too much frolicking has been catalogued as classic by the Dons in the last two seasons.

ting the ball that counts nearly so much as what is to be done with it.

The Dons found there were occasions when they scampered through games using handball and short-passing to advantage. They routed weak opposition—but when did they look a good team against the unrelenting pressure of a team that knew what to do with the ball?

Monopoly of the premiership is never good for the game and it would be worth while if teams could be developed to take from Melbourne the initiative and even cause them to lower their flag.

Here an Essendon season of success would be very welcome, but I believe it can only be produced when the hit-or-miss adventurers of the present side get down to learning how to deliver a ball to the benefit of other members of the team—and thus to the benefit of the side.

Baggott (Melb.) and Torney leaping for a hit-out following a throw-in from the boundary in the grand final at the M.C.G.

THE GRAND FINAL.

Condition Will Tell.

(By "FOLLOWER.")

For seven months league football teams have been training and striving for success and on Saturday the premiership will be decided on 100 minutes play. West Perth and East Fremantle have survived all the preliminary obstacles and the last is the grand final. Both have reason to feel confident and they should give the public the close finish that has been looked forward to since the end of the qualifying round.

AN argument arises year after year as to what is the best programme for a team in the major round. Does it benefit from a rest as a result of a semi-final victory or does it need continued hard match practice? Officials and supporters of East Fremantle are firmly convinced that a rest at this stage of the season is dangerous. They point out that East Fremantle lapsed in the second semi-final against West Perth, mainly because the team had not had a keen game for a month and that South Fremantle's condition gave out last Saturday in consequence of a rest after victory over Claremont in the first semi-final.

Recent results indicate that a team apparently does not suffer through having to play in semi-final, final and grand final in consecutive weeks. But West Perth officials ignore the past and live in the present. They have great faith in their players and their coach (R. Hutchinson). They emphasise the fact that the team succeeded early this season through its fitness and they have no reason to believe that the team will not have sufficient stamina and pace for a grand final victory. The players have continued to train keenly and on Sunday had some match practice. They mention proudly that a bye on September 20 did not prevent the side from outpacing East Fremantle on September 27.

If the second semi-final were taken as a guide, there could be but one opinion about the grand final—that West Perth must win. Its pace and teamwork then unset East Fremantle and the result was an easy victory. West Perth will not, however, have such a simple task on Saturday. Against South Fremantle the East Fremantle players excelled themselves. Had they been deliberately holding themselves in check so as to produce an overpowering effort in the last quarter, they could not have done better. That last-quarter football of East Fremantle was something that could be produced by only a very strong team. It is impossible to say whether or not West Perth could have so completely outclassed South Fremantle in the same circumstances. West Perth intends to prove its worth on Saturday.

In the second semi-final West Perth won where it had been doubtful—in the ruck—yet that was where East Fremantle gained its impetus last Saturday. Unless there is a complete reversal of form, West Perth will have a hard struggle in the ruck in the grand final. Ebbs, Briggs, Meiers (whose knee should be stronger), Iardi and Wendt (if needed) are strong followers and they will be on their mettle on Saturday. In the semi-final O'Keefe battled away successfully with Shuttleworth, Woodhouse and J. Heal staunch helpers and he did that on top of a seven-mile route march in the morning. With Ebbs in form, O'Keefe would have a difficult tussle for the knock-out and West Perth's hopes are that the tall Shuttleworth will show his best form and so ease the other's task.

East Fremantle's ruck strength is something to respect; West Perth's capabilities on the centre line are likely to cause East Fremantle some concern. The mere fact that S. Heal has returned from success in Victoria must give the West Perth team added confidence and he is in good form. The Melbourne selectors at first used Heal as a rover but he was on a centre wing in the grand final. Asked this week where he preferred to play, Heal declared emphatically for the wing. Giese is playing dashingly at the pivot and a centre line composed of S. Heal, Giese and Mill or Bridges would be capable of turning the tide in any game.

Although East Fremantle's young centre-line players show great promise, they may be in trouble on Saturday. F. Clarke was not a success at the centre against South Fremantle but is capable of improvement. It remains to be seen whether East Fremantle will play him there against Giese. It has not many apparent satisfactory alternatives, though Beccaria or L. Tetley could be played there. The 21-year-old Conway is a wing man well worth encouraging; he showed a lot of grit on Saturday and some clever things. The youthful Green is skilful, if not exceptionally fast.

West Perth will have a problem to solve if Raimoldi, the second rover, is not fit to play. It could use Heal as a rover, and may have to, and so leave the centre line as it was in the semi-final. East Fremantle's two young rovers cannot be given free rein.

Symonds is another injured player, but Hill and Caddy are training hard and keen to play. It is against Caddy that he has been in Victoria and has not been playing regularly, but he would be handy as a relief ruck man. Lamb is an aspirant for a position in the ruck. L. Tetley seems certain to go into the East Fremantle team again.

Duels which will be watched closely are those between M. Tetley and G. Doig, McDiarmid and Daniell, Gabrielson and Clamp and Haddow and Tyson. Tactics will play an important part in the game and it will be interesting to see how the teams deal with the potentially brilliant men against them. The Baker-Tyson combination is one that East Fremantle will have to guard against and the Meiers-Doig machinations are sure to concern West Perth. Whatever happens, an exciting, fast game is wanted.

W. Statham (S.F.) and G. Meiers.

"Pops" Heal, who yesterday playing with West Perth, completed the "second leg" of his unique final double, after playing with Melbourne in the Victorian grand final two weeks ago.

WEST PERTH 1941 PREMIERS

QUICK CHANGE • SAILOR - FOOTBALLER Stan Heal, wearing the Melbourne guernsey which he used in the Victorian grand final a fortnight ago, inspects the West Perth guernsey he donned today for his second grand final this season.

Winners' Speed Deciding Factor

In yesterday's league grand final at Subiaco Oval West Perth showed that their victory over East Fremantle in the semi-final was no flash in the pan. The day suited the cardinals well and they outpaced and outmarked Old East.

East Fremantle's attack broke down. Doig's inability to move freely was a serious handicap.

West Perth, by contrast was well served by its forwards, particularly Tyson and Baker, who with six goals each efficiently completed the team's good work.

EAST FREMANTLE:—Backs: L. Tetley, Haddow, Lardi. Half-backs: Wendt, Prince, Gabrielson. Centres: Conway, Clarke, Green: Half-forwards: Osmetti, Daniell, Casserly. Forwards: McDonald, Doig, Meiers. Rucks: Ebbs, Briggs. Rover: French. 19th man: Beccaria.

WEST PERTH:—Backs: Hill, M. Tetley, Jeavons. Half-backs: Shuttleworth, McDiarmid, Fleming. Centres: Bridges, Giese, Mills. Half-forwards: Clamp, Hicks, Caddy: Forwards: S. Heal, Tyson, Baker: Rucks: O'Keefe, Woodhouse. Rover: Pola. 19th man, Lamb.

Field umpire: Owens.

West Perth received a break, when at the first bounce an East Fremantle ruckman was penalised for encroaching on the ring. O'Keefe's free kick put the cardinals into attack, and within a minute Tyson, receiving from Hicks, had goaled.

Tetley and McDiarmid were early prominent for spectacular marking and dashing defence. Then again Hicks passed to Tyson, who marked in spectacular fashion and again raised two flags.

West Perth had been winning in the ruck, and was faster and surer across the centre-line, where Mills, on the left wing, was particularly brilliant.

Wests' third goal came from a clever snap by Heal.

It was now East Fremantle's turn to control play with Ebbs and Osmetti now supreme in the ruck, but misfortune dogged Easts' kicking for goal, and twice the post was hit, and five behinds scored before Meiers kicked truly.

West Perth finished the quarter with a handy lead after Baker had run into an unmarked goal and scored.

forward line; and when he goaled, Easts were only a point behind.

Now it was Baker again who marked above the pack, and again goaled. Tyson followed with two more, and Wests were in a much better position.

When East Fremantle attacked again Tetley, McDiarmid, and Fleming were impassable. The quarter finished as Tyson snapped a clever goal from an acute angle.

THIRD QUARTER
West Perth.—10.10.
East Fremantle 6.15.

East started the final term with a hard task ahead, nineteen points to pick up, and sparkling combination between O'Keefe, Tyson and the high-marking Baker, made it harder, a goal coming from the last-named.

Clamp shone in a series of exchanges, which gave Wests a further goal from Caddy. Things were ominous for Old East!

Beccaria was now on the field, having replaced Green, and a run down his wing produced a fine angle shot from Doig, but still another from Baker left Wests' position unaltered.

East were attacking with fiery zest, but incessantly passed to unmarked opponents. They finally managed something approaching concerted play, with Casserley passing through McDonald and Daniell for Meiers to goal.

Bridges with a long run down the wing brought the reply, Tyson carrying on to pass to Baker for his sixth goal. Tyson already having six

Casserley was still outpacing his opponent, as he had been all day, but he, too, suffered from East's general inability to pass accurately. Two goals then came, French and McDonald scoring.

There seemed a chance for East three goals down, but such a thin one! Then West started another run, with time going ever against Old East.

With play still in the cardinals forward lines, the siren sounded West Perth were premiers after a splendid season's football capped with a grand final-round effort.

FIRST QUARTER
West Perth.—4.6
East Fremantle.—1.8

East Fremantle opened the attack, Ebbs gaining possession from the ruck and sending down, but a poster, the fifth of the game, and another behind were the only results.

West came through, but here Gabrielson starred with Prince and held them out until a long pass from Giese found the unfailing Tyson in front of the sticks.

Then McDonald wriggled through cleverly and passed to Osmetti, who gave Meiers a shot at goal.

Osmetti and Ebbs were again prominent in continued East attacks, but still the luck was against the blue and whites and they kicked another behind and still another poster.

West managed a point before French, with splendid dash, came through where East had been losing on the wing, and passed to Daniell for a six-pointer.

East Fremantle had no effective answer to the West Perth centre line, where Bridges, Giese and Mill were winning; but Lardi and Ebbs in ruck were battling hard.

Tyson had scored his fourth goal for Wests before Doig, who had been heavily floored, finally scored his first.

Greater steadiness seemed to be required for East to pull up to their redoubtable opponents.

HALF-TIME.
West Perth—6.8.
East Fremantle—4.13.

Determined play by East Fremantle quickly brought results when Casserly goaled with a splendid running drop-kick.

Wests quickly replied, Mills being given the benefit of a doubtful mark. He kicked on strongly to the forward line, where Baker flew high for a spectacular mark. His kick raised a goal.

East Fremantle now played better than at any stage of the game, bumping hard, but making mistakes in the forward line through kicking too high.

Casserly put life into the half-

FINAL:
West Perth—14.14 (98pts.)
E. Frem'tle—10.17 (77pts.)

GOAL KICKERS.

West Perth: Tyson 6, Baker 6, Hill 1, Woodhouse 1.

East Fremantle: Meiers 3, Doig 2, McDonald 1, French 1, Casserly 1, Daniell 1, Ebbs 1.

BEST PLAYERS.

Baker and Tyson were outstanding in a strong attacking division for West Perth, and their play, more than anything else, decided the game. Baker's high marking was splendid, and his kicking, possibly the best we have seen from him, while Tyson's scouting and acute-angle shooting were as usual in a class on their own.

O'Keefe's ruck play was consistent against solid opposition and told considerably in the later stages of the game, while another potent factor was the supremacy of Bridges, Giese and Mill across the centre. McDiarmid and Tetley were efficient in defence against a not very violent East attack, but a harder task was well done by Fleming, while Clamp and S. Heal were others who showed out well at times.

Gabrielson was Old East's star; he cleared solidly and with dash from the half-back line and was always faster than his opponents. Another with a deal of dash and style was Casserley, though he spoilt some of his work by too hasty disposal. Prince was, as one expects, invariably strong and played cleverly, and Ebbs and Osmetti, too, handed out no mean displays of polished football.

Congratulations

After play J. Dolan, G. Doig and R. Daniell, of East Fremantle visited the West Perth rooms to extend congratulations to the winning team.

A special trophy was given to Clamp as most useful player of the side. An interesting point was mentioned by Mr. A. Breckler, former West Perth president, during the speechmaking in Wests' room. He remarked that Wests' win meant a treble for the red and blue.

Melbourne, Norwood and West Perth all wore these colours and they had won the premierships of their respective States.

In acknowledging compliments paid to him as coach Ross Hutchinson, who formerly led East Fremantle, said that the winning of the premiership by the cardinals realised for him an ambition that he dearly desired.

—V—